GAZETTEER OF MIRZAPUR.

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PREFACE.

The old Gazetteer of Mirzapur was compiled by Mr. W. Grierson Jackson and edited by Mr. F. H. Fisher in 1883. There appears to have been but little available material in writing and Mr. Jackson was compelled to rely largely on his own personal enquiries for his facts. Even then accurate information, or, in some cases, information at all was often lacking. Since that time much has been written about Mirzapur, especially concerning its population and ethnography; but it is still a district about which comparatively little is known. Nearly one-third of it has never been cadastrally surveyed; and even in the more accessible tracts lying north of the Kaimurs general information is more meagre probably than in any other district of the plains. The present volume contains a large amount of matter collected from a great variety of sources, of which the list of references is by no means exhaustive; but there are many points of interest which it has been found impossible to hardly more than notice; for, although so peculiarly interesting a district offers a rich field to the antiquarian and ethnographist, it can hardly as yet be said to have been exploited. I am much indebted to Messrs. P. Wyndham and J. B. Ormrod for their ready help in supplying information and material.

NAINI TAL:
September 1909.

D. L. D-B.

GAZETTEER OF MIRZAPUR.

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ABBREVIATIONS.

J.A.S.B.—Journal of the Asiatic Society of Bengal.

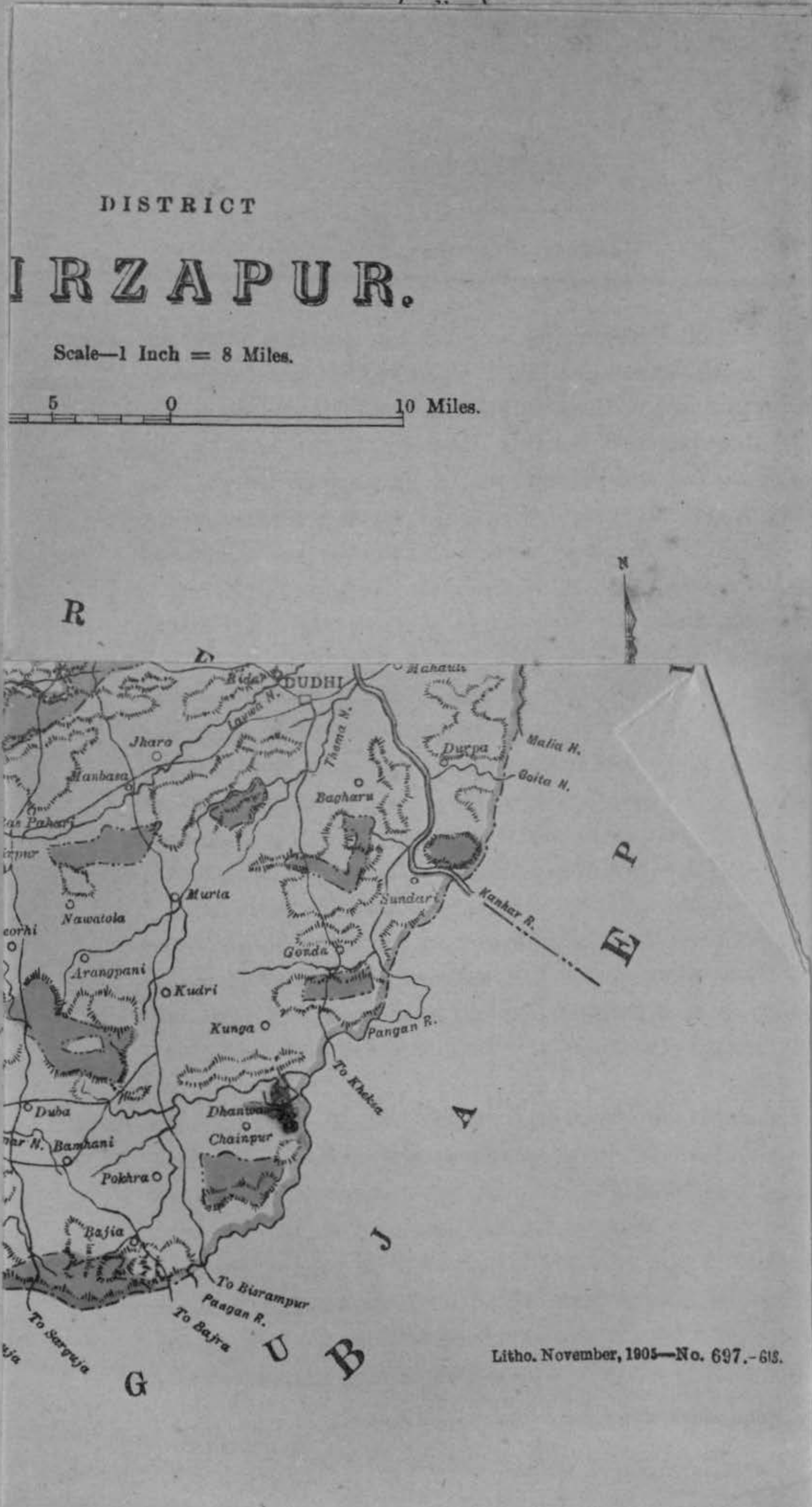
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DISTRICT
MIRZAPUR.
Scale—1 Inch = 8 Miles.
10 5 0 10 Miles.
REFERENCES.
Chief Town .... MIRZAPUR
Tahsil .... CHUNAR
Pargana Capital .... KANTIT
Police Station .... Halia
Village .... Harra
District Boundary
Tahsil "
Pargana or Tappa Boundary
Railway
Metalled Road
Unmetalled Road
Protected Forest
Pargana Kantit: Tappa Kon 1
Chhianave 2
Upraudh 3
Chaurasi 4
Majhwa 5
Saktesgarh 6
Pargana Barhar 7
NOTE.—Tahsils KORH and CHAKIA form part of the Family Domains of the Maharaja of Benares.
Photo.-Mecht. and Litho. Dept., Thomason College, Roorkee.
Litho. November, 1904—No. 697.
JAUNPUR
BENARES
SHAHABAD
PALAMAU
JASHPUR
SURGUJA
REWAH STATE
ALLAHABAD
MIRZAPUR
CHUNAR
ROBERTSGANJ
AHRAURA
CHAKIA
BHAGWAT
SAKTESGARH
NAUGARH
MANGRAUR
BHUILI
BIJAIGARH
AGORI
SINGRAULI
KORH
MAJHWA
Shahganj
Ghorawal


DISTRICT
IRZAPUR.
Scale—1 Inch = 8 Miles.
5 0 10 Miles.
N
R
DUDHI
Lauwa N.
Jhara
Manbasa
Thama N.
Durpa
Malia N.
Goita N.
Bagharu
Murta
Nawatola
Sundari
Kanhar R.
Arangpani
Kudri
Gonda
Kunga
Pangan R.
To Khekra
Duba
Bamhani
Dhanwa
Chainpur
Pokhra
Bajia
To Bisrampur
Pagan R.
To Bajra
To Sarguja
P
E
A
J
U
B
G
Litho. November, 1905—No. 697.-618.

CHAPTER I.

General Features.

The district of Mirzapur lies between the parallels of 23° 52′ and 25° 32′ north latitude, and 82 °7′ and 83° 33′ east longitude. It forms a portion of the Benares division, and is bounded on the north by the Jaunpur and Benares districts; on the east by the districts of Shahabad and Palamau in the province of Bengal; on the south by the tributary state of Sarguja; on the south-west by the territories of the Maharaja of Rewah; and by the Allahabad district on the north-west. In no direction, except for eight miles in the north-east where the Ganges separates the tahsil of Chunar from the district of Benares, has Mirzapur a natural frontier; and its southern boundary extends to a further distance south than that of any other district in the United Provinces. The shape to the north and west is somewhat irregular; but generally the northern portion of the district may be said to be a rough quadrilateral, to the south-eastern portion of which a similar but much smaller figure, comprising the tract of country known as Sonpar, is attached. The total area is returned at 3,352,320 acres or 5,238 square miles;* and Mirzapur is thus the largest district in the province, with the exception of those situated in the Himalayas. The extreme length from the north-west of pargana Bhadohi to the southern boundary is in round numbers 125 miles, and the greatest breadth is approximately 90 miles. **Boundaries and area.**

The scenery is as diversified as the area is vast; and the physical aspect of the district presents a variety of landscape which is as pleasing, as it is surprising, to an eye accustomed only to the level monotony of the districts situated entirely in the Gangetic plain. The country falls naturally into three great physical divisions. In the north is the alluvial plain which skirts the Ganges on either bank, and reaches from the northern boundary southwards to the abrupt scarp of the low flat topped line of hills into which the **Topography.**

* This is the area given in the Imperial Gazetteer.

range of the Vindhyans here subsides. Next follows a tableland stretching from the summit of the Vindhyan scarp southwards to the Kaimur range and the valley of the Son river; and beyond this lies the wilderness of hill and valley, jungle-clad ravine and crag, with here and there hill-encircled alluvial basins, which make up southern Mirzapur. Each of these natural divisions is sharply demarcated from the others, and each has widely differing characteristics.

The Ganges valley.

The portion of the district which lies within the basin of the Ganges is divided by that river into two unequal parts. North of the stream lie the fertile and populous parganas of Bhadohi and Qariat Sikhar, the tappa of Kon, and the taluqa of Majhwa. It is about 40 miles in length from east to west by about 20 from north to south, or about 500 square miles in extent. From an agricultural point of view, it is the most valuable portion of the district; and the aspect is the familiar one of the Gangetic plain. No elevation more considerable than the high bank of a forgotten river bed, the crumbling rampart of an ancient earthwork, or the embankment of a village tank breaks the line of the horizon, and no considerable streams are found to give variety to the scene. South of the Ganges, a similar plain extends for nearly 60 miles or the whole breadth of the district in this quarter. Its total area may be computed at nearly 600 square miles, but it varies greatly in extent from north to south. In some places, as at Chunar and Bindhachal, the hills advance to the very bank of the river, while in others the scarp is ten miles or more away. The soil is similar, though on the whole inferior to that of the northern portion; and the surface, thanks to a large number of watercourses that carry off the drainage of the hills, is considerably more broken by ravines. Commencing on the west, this plain includes the northern portions of tappa Chhiyanve, with its broad expanse of rich alluvial land, and of Chaurasi, where the luxuriance of the crops is proverbial among the people. It then narrows to a mere strip below the hills of Saktesgarh and the fortress-crowned rock of Chunar; but, once this barrier is past, the plain broadens out and the hills gradually recede till they fade out of sight from the river altogether. The lowlands that are situated between them and the stream are extensive but of varying fertility, and comprise soils as different as the

khadir of Chunar, the rice-lands of Bhuili and northern Kera-Mangraur, and thin sandy deposits scoured into a labyrinth of ravines or hummocks of nodular limestone, where cultivation is both difficult and precarious.

The Central or Vindhyan plateau.

The next division is the central or Vindhyan plateau, which includes the whole tract lying between the Vindhyan escarpment and the Kaimur range, at an average elevation of 500 feet above the valley of the Ganges. This is in extent some 70 miles from east to west, varies from 20 to 30 in width from north to south, and contains an area of 1,700 or 1,800 square miles. The southern boundary is formed by the Kaimur range, which, in the western portion, is from 1,000 to 1,200 feet above the plain below it. After sinking to a series of inconsiderable hills in the centre, where the plateau terminates in an abrupt precipice overhanging the valley of the Son, it rises again and, sweeping southwards, culminates in the great crag Mangeswar, the fort-crowned rock of Bijaigarh, and the peak of Bagdharua above Argarh. It thence trends away eastward, with gradually diminishing height, to the boundary of the district. The eastern portion of the plateau comprises the southern half of the pargana of Kera-Mangraur, known as the taluqa of Naugarh. It may be generally described as a tableland extending between two parallel ranges of hills; but it is by no means regular in its surface, and is intersected everywhere by low wooded ridges, between which lie valleys watered by hill torrents: the latter find their way, some to the Karamnasa, some to the Chandraprabha, and so to the plains and the Ganges beyond. The whole taluqa, in extent nearly 300 square miles, is forest with here and there a few clearings, each containing one or more villages scattered at wide intervals over its surface. The scenery is among the wildest and most beautiful in the district, the tract known as the *Daman-i-koh*, where the hills meet the plains, being specially picturesque, while the falls of the Karamnasa and Chandraprabha, of which some account will be given later on, have an unsurpassable grandeur of their own. Further west lies the Sukrit pass above Ahraura which was long the chief outlet for the traffic in grain and jungle produce from the south, with the jungles and preserves of Saktesgarh, Imilia Ban and the Jungle Mahals beyond. These, which are chiefly the property of the Raja of Kantit, present,

on a smaller scale, a copy of the scenery of taluqa Naugarh. Further west still, in the south of tappa Chaurasi and the northern portions of Upraudh, the forest gives way, first to scrub jungle and then to an open and undulating plain formed of rock, thinly covered with a red ferruginous clay and in parts with a gravel closely resembling laterite. This tract forms an ideal ground for the manœuvring of troops, and has of late years been the site of the Barkachha camp of exercise. To the south of this, along the Deccan road, the country descends with a gentle south-westerly slope towards the river Belan. The gradual improvement in the fertility of the soil is marked by a change of crops from *kodon* to *til* and pulses: but beyond the Belan there is another rise and a corresponding falling off in fertility, succeeded by a long and slightly inclined stretch of tolerably productive country extending to the base of the Kaimurs East of this, and continuing almost to the Bengal border, is found a remarkably fertile tract of land which runs in a narrow strip through Halia, Ghorawal, Robertsganj and past Bijaigarh, roughly parallel to the Kaimurs. To a spectator viewing the scene from the hills above, the limits of this tract are clearly marked by the numerous groves of well-grown trees dotted over its surface, contrasting strongly with the stunted jungle beyond. The western portion is, like the rest of the elevated parts of the district, hampered by difficulties of water supply; but to the east, and especially about Ghorawal, the meeting of the two slopes is responsible for so great a rise in the water level that irrigation by the *dhenkul* or lever and bucket becomes possible. Large quantities of rice are grown, and even the more valuable crops are found to succeed. This is the last tract of culturable land in the plateau. Beyond, a short stretch of rock and jungle leads to the southern extremity and the precipitous descent into the valley of the Son. This is reached by several more or less practicable passes, the finest and easiest of which is the Kewaighat above Markundi on the Ahraura-Chopan road. The view from this pass is a very striking one, including in a *coup d'œil* the amphitheatre sweep of the southern scarp of the Kaimurs—the valley lying like a map, hundreds of feet below—and the jungle-covered face of the southern hills beyond the river, with the time-bleached walls of the Agori fort at their foot.

The country south of the Son river consists for the most part of numerous parallel lines of rocky hills, of no great height, but rugged and impracticable, and clothed with jungle usually of a stunted and ill-grown description. Entering it at Chopan, a traveller, whose gaze fell on the blue waters of the river, flowing swiftly over broad stretches of silver sand, with the dark castellated heights of Mangeswar forming an imposing background all along the north as far as the eye can reach, would at once be struck by the beauty of the scenery: but as he went further south, the splendid vision would fade away into stretches of arid waste, intersected by ridges and *nalas*, only opening out in a few places to enclose lowlying patches of culturable soil. Starting from Agori, there is first of all a long, narrow strip of fertile land, bordering on the Son and backed by some rows of hills. Crossing these at Gaeghat, where the fertile land ceases, one reaches the Kon valley. This is fairly extensive and runs parallel with the Son. After the Kon valley, with the exception of a little scattered cultivation near the Pandu river, no more culturable land is seen till the passes near Pandu Chhattan are surmounted and Jorukhar, the northern outpost of the Dudhi valley, is reached. The Dudhi valley is bounded on the north by the rugged mass of broken country which lies between it and the Son; on the east, by the Palamau district; and, on the south, by the southern range of hills, of which Gonda has the highest elevation. It is a fertile, prosperous valley, which is much wider and more extensive to the south, where it opens out round Muirpur and merges into the Singrauli basin. The Singrauli basin is triangular in shape, its base lying around Kota on the Rewah frontier, and the apex running nearly up to the Aundi hills. The soil is a rich alluvial loam, and cultivation is in a better state than in Dudhi owing to the absence of intersecting rivers. These three valleys, together with the strip along the Son in Agori, contain practically all the land available for cultivation. The area of the whole Sonpar tract is about 1,700 square miles, but the population is very sparse and scanty. **The Sonpar.**

From this account it will be seen that, with the exception of the Ganges valley proper, the entire district is occupied by hills. For purposes of geological description its area may be divided into five tracts, namely the Vindhyan tableland, the Kaimur hills, the Son **Hills.**

valley, the hilly tract south of the Son and the Singrauli basin. Each of these divisions has the shape of longitudinal strips, with their length from east to west.

Upper Vindhyans. The Vindhyan tableland consists principally of upper Vindhyan sandstones. The subdivisions of these which are found are upper and lower Kaimur sandstones, upper Rewah sandstones and Rewah and Bijaigarh shales. The lower Kaimur sandstones and Bijaigarh shales occur especially in the south of the plateau and form the lower spurs of the Kaimur range; while the upper Kaimur sandstone constitutes the greater part of the tableland. The latter is of great thickness and very massive; and has long been renowned for its excellence as a building stone. The Rewah shales and sandstones are found only at the western limit of the district, where they form a second scarped range resembling the Kaimur range. The shales are particularly well seen in the upper Adh valley and east of Katraghat. The Son valley is occupied by the Lower Vindhyans, which consist, in Mirzapur, of four subdivisions. The lowest, or Garbandh group, usually occurs south of or at a short distance from the Son. This group takes its name from the Garbandh tableland situated close to the western boundary of Palamau and adjacent to the eastern border of Mirzapur. It consists of conglomerates, shales, carbonaceous beds, limestones, porcellanites and glauconitic sandstones, its uppermost member, which is very constant, being a compact limestone about 250 feet thick. The underlying beds vary greatly in character and in the width of their outcrop, partly on account of the frequently faulted nature of the southern boundary. The conglomerates may be best seen near Agori Khas, and the shales near Kon. The second subdivision of the lower Vindhyans consists of trappoids and porcellanites. They are indurated, highly siliceous, volcanic ashes, and are usually found in the immediate neighbourhood of the south bank of the Son. The third subdivision or Kheinjua group consists of limestones and of shales with calcareous concretions. It usually forms the northern bank of the Son, and its name is derived from a range of hills lying south of the Kaimur scarp at and beyond the western boundary of the Rewah state in the Son valley. The last group in this formation which is represented in the district is the Rohtas. It consists

Lower Vindhyans.

principally of thin-bedded limestones, some of which are suitable for lithographic printing and are found at the foot and along the lower slopes of the Kaimur range. The numerous ranges of the hilly tract for some distance south of the Son are occupied by the Bijawars, a sedimentary series older than the Vindhyans. The prevalent rocks of this formation are slates, either slate-coloured or else green, red, or purple: some of them, especially the dark gray ones, are perhaps of sufficiently good quality to be used for roofing purposes. The other rocks are quartzites, limestones, basic volcanic rocks and hæmatitic jaspers. The last named are one of the most characteristic rocks of the Bijawar formation, and are stratified rocks consisting of chalcedonic quartz with a varying admixture of hæmatite, the hæmatitic portions being disposed along bands of varying thickness parallel with the direction of the bedding. Owing to the brilliant red colour of these bands, the jasper assumes a ribboned appearance, which is very remarkable and thoroughly characteristic: sometimes the proportion of hæmatite increases till it predominates to such an extent that the rock becomes a valuable iron ore. The Bijawars and the Vindhyans are completely unfossiliferous, and for this reason their ages cannot be exactly determined. From all indications, however, the latter cannot be newer than the geological period known as Devonian, while they may be as old as Cambrian. The Bijawar formation in all probability is pre-Cambrian. Intermediate in age between them is the "red shale" or "Jungel series." It forms a lofty east and west range, whose eastern end terminates south of the village of Jungel, some eight miles west of Agori Khas. It consists principally of massive sandstones with subordinate bands of conglomerate and red or rather deep purple shales. No complete section of the series is seen anywhere, and the distribution of its exposures is peculiar; for it occurs as a series of narrow outliers whose structure is that of a sharp syncline with axis dipping south at a pronounced angle. Gneiss and Gondwana constitute the southernmost tract of the district, namely the Singrauli area. The Archæan gneiss is of course the oldest of all the formations in the district. It includes granites, diorites, mica schists, hornblende schists, quartz reefs, crystalline, serpentinous and dolomitic limestones, magnetite and quartz beds. These are traversed by veins of acid pegmatite and of basic epidiorite.

Bijawars.

Jungel series.

Gneiss.

Gondwana beds.

The Gondwana beds occur principally in the western parts of Singrauli. They consist for the most part of the lowest division, the unproductive Talchir beds, which comprise shales, sandstones and boulder beds, supposed to be of glacial origin. Some of the productive coal measures belonging to the Damuda group are found near the western boundary of the district, where they constitute the Singrauli coal-field.

Deccan Trap.

The only other geological formation in the district that calls for notice is the fertile black soil which occupies the western portion of the Kaimur tableland. This is probably the result of the disintegration of some basaltic rocks of the Deccan Trap formation.*

Levels.

Consisting as the district does of so many hills, its surface naturally presents very great changes of level. The highest elevations are of course to the south, the Kaimurs having an average recorded level of some 1,800 feet above the sea. The level of the Vindhyan plateau is by no means uniform, and there is a well-defined slope, towards the west, all the streams draining into the Belan. In this portion of the district, along the foot of the Kaimurs, the average elevation may be taken at between 1,200 and 1,300 feet; this gradually falls to about 800 feet along the northern escarpment, but in Upraudh, on the western limit of the district, is not in excess of 725 feet. The Ganges valley lies at a very much lower level, the recorded height being 282 feet above the sea at Mirzapur railway station and the same at Gopiganj on the grand trunk road. The bed of the river lies some 75 feet below this, the recorded level at Mirzapur being 206 feet. From west to east there is a very small, almost imperceptible, slope following the general direction of the river; but at the district boundary, beyond the Karamnasa, the registered height above the sea is not more than 30 feet lower than that at Mirzapur.

Soils.

The soils of the district are as various as the rocks which underlie them. But owing to the district being a permanently settled one, no records exist from which accurate statistics on this subject can be obtained. The soils of the Ganges plain on either side of the river do not present any peculiar features. The same varieties, namely *dumat*, *matiyar* and *balua* occur here as in

* Rec. G. S. I., vol. V, part I, and volume VI, part II. Mem. G. S. I., vols. VII and XXXI.

other alluvial districts, the first named preponderating. The soils of the plateau are generally a stiff and shallow red clay, highly ferruginous, and passing at times into laterite and pisoletic iron ore. Little can be made of this soil which gives only the scantiest of crops with generally two fallows intervening. In the fertile strip lying at the foot of the Kaimurs, however, of which mention has already been made, there are large areas of excellent loam and clay, such as obtain in the Ganges valley, as well as of a fine black soil resembling the black cotton soil of Bundelkhand and Central India. Between the plateau and the north bank of the Son, there intervenes a six mile stretch of light sandy alluvial soil, but of the tract beyond that river there is little to be said. The scanty cultivation that exists depends upon cold stiff clays or a loose sandy soil, according to the elevation of the patches of tillage. The Singrauli basin, however, to which allusion has been made before, is covered with a rich black loam overlying the well-known boulder drift of the Talchir series, which comes to the surface in the higher portions of the basin. The cultivated basin of the adjoining pargana of Dudhi is similar in character. No *usar* is found above the Vindhyan *ghats*, and in the Ganges plain the area is not extensive. Such as exists is principally to be found in the neighbourhood of Bhadohi, Ujh and Sherpur, all in the pargana of Bhadohi. At Sherpur, especially, the *reh* efflorescence is extensively abundant; and salt can be extracted from the earth in many portions of the same tract. A village near Bhadohi, still known as Nimaksal Lunari, was once the seat of an extensive salt manufacture, now no longer carried on.

Local nomenclature and conventional soils.

The experience of the practical husbandman has subdivided the soils into a large number of classes, based in part on their physical characteristics or their productiveness, and in part on their relative situation. In the Ganges valley, *balua* is the name given to a slightly sandy but very fertile soil lying close to the village site, and is sharply distinguished from *baluhi* which consists almost entirely of sand and produces next to nothing. *Karail* is the same as the *matiyar* of the Doab districts, and *gurmatta* corresponds to the better known *doras* or *dumat.* Alluvial or annually inundated lands, although the soil differs in no respect in composition from the foregoing, go by the special name of *tari*. *Pahari* is, as its name implies, the light sandy soil of

the hills; and *kankrali* is poor land abounding in *kankar.* On the Vindhyan plateau, *balua* is usually called *sikta* and is the most prized of all soils. The wet clay which grows nothing but rice is *dhankhar;* and the name *gurmat* is applied in a wholly different sense to the poorer varieties of the *pahari* soils. An entirely different nomenclature is found south of the Son. In the cultivated basins of the south, the rich friable black earth is known as *kewal.* Next comes the lighter coloured soil variously known as *dudhia.* Inferior qualities are called *balsundar*, a sandy soil needing much rain; *lal-matti*, a red earth like *pahari;* and *charak pathri* or *chhirak patthri*, which, as the name implies, is full of stones and pebbles. With reference to position, the village lands near the site are known as *goenr;* the intermediate belt is called *maddhim* or *majhiar*, and the fields furthest away are known variously as *dur*, *siwan* and *har*, In Sonpar, however, *goenr* land is called *kola* or *kolia*, and yields a double crop: beyond this lies the single cropped *patia.* Besides these are found *bahra*, a synonym for *kiari*, a rice field; *chaur*, the level land bordering on *bahra*, but above its level; *bagar* and *del*, culturable waste; *daha* and *kirka*, newly reclaimed jungle; *khari*, alluvial land along streams; and *paol*, an embanked field.

Rivers.

The two chief rivers of the district are the Ganges and the Son, which flow from west to east across the northern and central portions of the district respectively. Besides these there are five medium-sized streams, namely the Belan, Karamnasa, Chandraprabha, Rihand and Kanhar, and a host of minor channels. The latter are mere torrents, which swell to a considerable size during the rains but shrink in the hot weather to insignificant dimensions, in most cases becoming little else than a series of disconnected pools. Their depth and velocity depend on the nature of the rainfall; and to the north of the Kaimur escarpment, they either serve to carry off the drainage of the plateau to the Ganges, or, as in pargana Upraudh, hold a westerly course and discharge themselves into the Belan. South of the Kaimurs, there is only one small stream, the Gaghar, which flows into the Son on its left bank; but south of the river, the Singrauli and Dudhi basins are drained by a large number of tributary channels, which, like the

Ajhir, Bichhi, Lauwa and Thema, either join the Rihand and Kanhar, or, like the Bijul, flow into the Son direct.

The Ganges.

The Ganges first touches the district at the village of Karaundia in pargana Bhadohi. At this point it makes a remarkable loop enclosing a peninsular of land, belonging to the district, which is only some two miles broad and almost isolated from the rest of the pargana. Thence it pursues a somewhat sinuous, but generally easterly, course past Bindhachal to Mirzapur. North of the latter place it flows due north and shows a tendency to double back; but after about four miles regains its easterly direction and continues thus to Chunar, where its trend becomes north-easterly. It finally leaves the district six miles above the city of Benares, but for the last eight miles of its course, the land on its northern shore belongs not to this district but Benares. From point to point its total length in Mirzapur is o ly 56 miles, but the actual course of the stream is increased by th extensive loops to some 84 miles. The river bed is entirely compo ed of sand and *kankar*. The right bank is abrupt and steep, cons sting usually of a foundation of *kankar*, supporting a bluff of the ordinary *dumat* soil; but the surface of this is greatly broken by the many drainage channels that join the river on this side, among which the Jirgo, which enters it near Chunar, the Belwan or Dahwa, the Khajuri, the Lighla and the Karnauti may be mentione . For many years the stream has been slowly but constantly eating into this bank, though no very violent or rapid diluvial action has taken place. The left bank on the other hand is a gently shelving slope of alluvial deposit, which is unbroken in surface by any watercourse. Every year it is enriched by river silt and is cultivated to the very edge of the water, both with cold weather crops and *boro* or hot weather rice. The usual annual rise of the river is between 38 and 40 feet;* and the stream, which during the hot and cold weather is not more than a quarter of a mile broad, ecomes in the rains a broad and rapid stream. Normally its volume does not increase sufficiently in this season to inundate any portion of the country on either bank; but in 1861 and 1875, the extraordinary heights of 53 feet 2 inches and of 51 feet 10 inches were recorded. Since that year the highest recorded rise has been

* Daily variations in the heigh of the ganges during the rainy season are recorded by Jardine, Skinner & Co., at their factory at Bariaghat.

48 feet. On all these occasions the country on the northern bank was inundated, and loss of both agricultural stock and other property resulted. The Ganges is navigable by country boats of all sizes; but during the dry season navigation is tedious and difficult. The deep-stream channel at this time of the year is kept open for navigation by means of funds supplied by the collector of tolls on shipping at Rajghat, Benares; but during the rains the traffic is unhampered by any difficulties.

The Chandraprabha.

The Chandraprabha river rises on the Vindhyan plateau in taluqa Naugarh of the Chakia tahsil. It leaves the tableland at the Deodari fall by a double leap 400 feet in height, in the midst of an amphitheatre of rock, crowned by the ruins of an ancient Gaharwar fortress. From this point the stream passes, by a gloomy and precipitous gorge seven miles in length, to the open country of Kera-Mangraur beyond. The walls of this chasm, level with the plateau at their summit, and with the plains below, are nowhere capable of ascent; but the gorge has a stern grandeur of its own, which amply repays a visit. After passing through the lowlands of Kera-Mangraur, the Chandraprabha leaves the district at the Benares boundary. Except in the rains, it carries but a small stream; but its surplus waters have been impounded by a large masonry weir at Muzaffarpur, shortly after it leaves the hills. This was built by Maharaja Udit Narayan of Benares in order to serve as the reservoir of the Bahachandra or Chandrauli canal, which waters the villages of Majhlipatti in the Chandraprabha-Karamnasa doab. The work was commenced as far back as 1820, and is reported to have cost over a lakh of rupees. But the reservior is now silted up and the canal in disrepair.

The Karamnasa.

The Karamnasa, the accursed stream of Puranic myth, is larger than the Chandraprabha. It rises near Sarodag, on the northern face of the Shahabad continuation of the Kaimurs, some 18 miles west of Rohtasgarh, where it forms a rapid streamlet of pure and limpid water. Flowing north-west, it forms, at the village of Banki, the boundary between pargana Bijaigarh and Bengal. Thence it sweeps round in a semi-circle, after being joined by two small affluents, the Bijra and Pachan, through Bijaigarh and taluqa Naugarh, reaching the frontier again to the east of the village of the latter name. After again forming the boundary

for some 15 to 20 miles, it finally escapes from the hills, and, traversing the centre of the rice-plain of Kera-Mangraur, leaves the district near the village of Lataun. The Karamnasa reaches the plain by a succession of leaps of varying elevation; but two of these, known as the Latifsah and Chhanpathar, are worthy of special notice from their superior beauty. The scenery is wild and picturesque; and the falls and rapids of the river present a spectacle which cannot be surpassed in these provinces. At its entrance to the lowlands the stream is about 150 yards wide, but its volume is very variable. At the end of February it dwindles to a mere thread, but rises sometimes to over 25 feet during the rains. It is not navigable in any part of its course within the limits of *Mirzapur*; and its upper reaches expand into numerous pools, which abound in fish. The Karamnasa has an ill repute among the Hindus of northern India, and the legend which accounts for this is a double one. It is said that a certain Raja Trisanka of the solar race, having slain a Brahman and also contracted an incestuous marriage, sought in vain for means whereby he might be purged of his guilt, until a holy *rishi* collected water from all the sacred streams of the world and washed him therewith. The ablution was successful, but from the spot, where it took place, the Karamnasa issued, and bears for ever the taint of guilt which the sacred waters removed. Another account tells how this same Trisanka, relying on the superhuman power he had attained by a long course of austerities, attempted to scale the very heaven of the gods. Half-way he was opposed by the immortals, who, in wrath at his audacity, suspended him for ever, head downwards, midway between heaven and earth. In his torment there continually exudes from his mouth drops of a baneful moisture, which fall into and taint the water of the Karamnasa beneath. It is curious, however, that the evil repute of the Karamnasa is nowhere so lightly thought of as on the banks of the stream itself. The Hindus of the mixed castes who reside on its banks are not deterred from freely using its waters by any dread of pollution. These stories offer no plausible reason for the evil name of this particular stream; and it has been suggested that it gained this from the fact that in early times its waters were the frontier between the invading Aryans and the aborigines, and possibly the scene of a campaign

in which the latter were victorious. Possibly both its name and its bad reputation are derived from the *karama* tree, the totem of the Dravidian Kharwars and Manjhis, who live along its banks, the association with *karma* or good works being a subsequent interpretation.*

The Son.

The Son enters the district from Rewah between the villages of Silpi and Kurari. It runs a course of 35 miles across the district, in almost a due easterly direction, and leaves Mirzapur a little beyond the old village of Argarh and the Bagdharua peak. Its course lies along a deep valley, never more than eight or nine miles broad. In the dry season it has a shallow stream, between sixty and one hundred yards broad, which wanders from side to side of a broad bed of sand or gravel and is easily fordable on foot. In the rains, on the other hand, the enormous drainage area of its basin and the rapid gradient of its bed render it liable to sudden floods of extraordinary violence. For these reasons it is practically useless for irrigation. Large rafts of bamboos and timber are despatched throughout the dry season to Dehri, and boats of small draught and displacement, built on the bank, are freighted with *bagai* grass and other jungle produce, and despatched to the same destination.

Tributaries of the Son.

During its course through the district the Son receives from the south two considerable tributaries, the Rihand and the Kanhar. Both these streams rise among the tributary states of Chutia Nagpur, the Rihand in Udaipur and the Kanhar in Sarguja. The former flows past Gaharwargaon, the pargana capital of Singrauli, and enters the Son at Sindhuria after a course of 44 miles in the district. The Kanhar unites with the larger river at Kota, twelve miles below the mouth of the Rihand, after a course of some 25 miles generally parallel to that of the Rihand. Both the shallowness of the water and the rocky nature of its bed make this stream entirely impassable for boats, but the Rihand is navigable for small vessels of light tonnage and for rafts. The only other tributary of the Son, which calls for separate mention, is the Gaghar. This is peculiar in being the only affluent of that river in the district on its left bank. It starts at Sathari in the east of the district and makes its way through the Kaimur range, joining the Son opposite Chopan.

* Crooke, *Popular Religion and Folklore*, page 22.

Belan river.

The Belan is the principal drainage channel of the central plateau of the district. It rises in pargana Bijaigarh east of Robertsganj, and holds a sinuous course with a westerly direction through the fertile strip of country lying in the centre of pargana Barhar, until it reaches the vicinity of Ghorawal. Here, after making an angular curve to the north, it bends south-west and forms, for a short distance, the boundary between British territory and the Rewah state. At the extreme south-western corner of Barhar it turns north at right angles, and, passing along the border between Barhar and Upraudh for nine miles, trends once more north westwards. This portion of its course is of considerable beauty, the stream flowing over a rocky bed, first through a precipitous gorge, into which it falls by a single leap of over one hundred feet at the Moka Dari, and then through an intricate mass of ravines, which make crossing a matter of great difficulty even for lightly laden pack animals. Further on it cuts the line of the cart road from Lalganj to Halia and of the great Deccan road, on both of which masonry causeways have been constructed. A little west of Baraundha, on the latter road, the frontier is reached, and the river passes through the south of the Allahabad district to its junction with the Tons. The Belan is not navigable in any portion of its course. It is joined by many affluents, but all, with the exception of the Adh and Bakhar, are insignificant streams.

Drainage.

These rivers and streams, together with their tributaries, constitute the natural drainage lines of the country. A glance at the map will show that the latter are very numerous and well marked. Though the whole of the natural drainage of the district finds its way eventually into the Ganges and the land is, in a broad sense, a part of the Ganges basin, it is more convenient to distinguish locally five areas of drainage. The surface drainage of pargana Bhadohi is practically entirely collected by the Barna and its insignificant affluent, the Murwa. The Barna only skirts the district for a short distance on its course towards Benares, and neither it nor the Murwa call for further notice. The alluvial plain south of the Ganges, which lies somewhat higher and has a considerably steeper gradient from the foot of the Vindhyans to the river bank, is amply provided with drainage channels; while to the east, in Chakia, both the lowland and the upland have

their surplus waters carried off by the Chandraprabha and the Karamnasa. In pargana Barhar and tappa Upraudh, the surface drainage flows westwards into the Belan, which from this point of view must rank as one of the three most important rivers in the district. The whole of the south of the district, including the portion of pargana Bijaigarh lying south of the Kaimurs, drains into the Son or one of its tributaries. It may easily be conceived that the district contains nothing that can be dignified with the name of a lake. Such natural *jhils* as there are, are of the shallowest character and seldom retain water even up to the commencement of the hot weather, though Tal Samdha, the largest, situated near the eastern boundary of pargana Bhadohi, may be as much as two miles broad after a favourable monsoon. On the other hand, in the upland portions of Mirzapur, as in similarly situated tracts, advantage has been taken of marked drainage lines to construct a number of artificial tanks, such as those at Kandia and Gaharwargaon, by means of embankments, which impound considerable quantities of water. These, however, are made with the definite object of irrigation, and will be more fittingly treated when that subject is discussed.

Waste lands.

The barren area not available for cultivation amounts to some 1,539,506 acres or 45 92 of the whole district. It is necessary, however, to point out that a large portion of the district, namely parganas Agori, Singrauli, Dudhi, and the area of 64 villages in pargana Bijaigarh, covering in all some 1,259,177 acres, has never been cadastrally surveyed; so that not only has this figure to be accepted merely as an approximation, but owing to the absence of annual returns accurate details of the area cannot be obtained. Moreover, complete statistics are unprocurable for a portion of pargana Kera-Mangraur in the Family Domains of the Maharaja of Benares, and detailed information therefore is available only for tahsils Mirzapur, Chunar and the portion of Robertsganj comprised in pargana Barhar and a part of Bijaigarh. According to the returns, the average area of the surveyed portion of the district between 1902 and 1907 was 1,536,358 acres, out of which 303,334 acres or 19·76 per cent. were barren waste. This, however, included the area under water, amounting to 61,689 acres, and all the land occupied by sites, roads and the like. The remainder consists for

the most part of rivers, jungles and rocky hills, and covers 183,984 acres, over half of which is in Mirzapur tahsil. Of local tracts, pargana Ahraura has 22·80 per cent. of barren waste, and is followed by Saktesgarh, 18·14 per cent. and Upraudh, 15·59 per cent. At the opposite extreme come the densely populated portions of the Ganges valley; and in Bhuili the proportion does not exceed 1·43 per cent. and in Qariat Sikhar 1·83 per cent.

Jungles. Incidental mention has already been made of the forests with which the eastern portion of the tableland and the southern hills are clothed. These are the remains of a dense tree growth which once covered all but the most arid portions of the upland of the district. Except in the Chakia preserves and the more inaccessible localities they now contain no valuable timber. The demand for firewood and charcoal in the cities of Mirzapur and Benares has led to an almost complete denudation of the nearer hills, and, wherever jungle grows, it is usual to cut it every seven years to meet this demand. The inaccessibility of Sonpar has saved the forests of southern Mirzapur from a similar fate but even here the trees though numerous in quantity are generally speaking poor in quality, except in the immediate vicinity of the rivers on the lower elevations. The outskirts of the jungle are especially poor and thin owing to the recklessness of woodcutters and the former wasteful system of *dhaiya* cultivation. Before the Government stepped in to prevent this practice in the Dudhi estate, the nomad cultivator would select a well-wooded piece of jungle, fire it, and having thus cleared it, would crop it till the soil was exhausted and then move on to a fresh plot. There is no closed forest in Sonpar, but steps have been taken to prevent the denudation of the existing jungle. In the forests owned by the Raja of Singrauli and the Rani of Barhar, an axe tax, called *tangai*, is levied on each person; this ranges from four annas to one rupee per annum. Agarias and *khair* workers pay a similar due, termed *chulhai*. Cultivators, however, are permitted to take wood free for building houses, making implements and for other *bonâ fide* domestic or agricultural purposes. In Dudhi the jungle is divided into protected and non-protected forest, its total area being returned at approximately 78,876 acres. The former is technically called *rakhat*, while in the latter, which is known as *katat*, any person is allowed to go and cut wood without let or

hindrance. The forests of south Mirzapur were examined by an assistant conservator of forests in 1869, with a view to reservation. He reported that there were in the northern portion of Dudhi no forests of present or prospective value and that little could be expected from the existing jungles under any circumstances. As regards the southern half of the pargana he was more hopeful, owing to the prevalence of *sal* trees and the more generous growth of bamboos. Steps to preserve these forests were first taken in 1870-71, after the visit of Sir William Muir to Dudhi, by restricting wasteful intermittent cultivation; and in 1874 the area of protected forest was marked off. Four forest guards were subsequently appointed to look after the protected area, and their number was increased to nine in 1901, their pay being provided out of the income of the Dudhi state. The extension of this staff was under consideration in 1908, but no further steps were taken in the way of conservancy: though, in view of the decrease of timber, it was decided to extend protection to a larger area of waste land at the settlement of 1909.

Jungle trees.

Besides the *bargad, pipal, shisham*, mango, *nim, bel, jamun* and tamarind, the common trees of a Gangetic landscape, which are too well known to need description, there is a large number of trees growing in the Mirzapur forests which are more or less confined to the rocky portions of the province. Moreover, there is hardly one which is not put to some use by the inhabitants. The silky wool which grows in the pods of the *semal* (bombax malabaricum) is used to stuff quilts, mattresses and the pack-saddles of animals: the root makes a tonic medicine. The *aonla* (phyllanthes emblica) and *bahera* (terminalia bellerica) yield a red dye. The berries of the former are acid in taste and useful as an astringent, and from the fruit of the latter ink and an aperient medicine are made. The black heart wood of the *tendu* (diospyros melanoxylon) supplies the ebony of commerce, while its round, yellow fruit is much consumed by jungle tribes. The *dhaora* or *siada* (lagerstrœsmia parviflora) is a large deciduous tree with wood of a greyish-brown colour: it is tough, elastic and durable and might, if transport were easier, prove of large commercial value. Its leaves are used by Chamars in tanning. The *salai* (boswellia thurifera), rising with its ashy and leafless

branches above the underwood, gives the forest a bleak and wintry appearance. Out of its trunk are made the troughs (*dongi*) used as repositories in which the catechu syrup that is extracted from the *khair* wood by boiling is dried. The bright scarlet flowers of the *palas* or *dhak* (butea frondosa) yield a yellow dye, brighter than gamboge: its seeds are useful medicinally as a vermifuge and purgative, while its inspissated juice has astringent properties. From its leaves are made the platters so much used in marriage ceremonies; and the root furnishes a fibre for caulking boats. It also bears lac. The *parsidoh* (hardwickia binata) seems to flourish particularly in south Mirzapur. The leaves are used as fodder for cattle. The heart-wood is tough and is used for bridges and house posts, as well as for lighter fancy work. In the Son river piles of *parsidoh* have been found after 20 years as sound as when first put in. This tree bears a sacred character among the aborigines of Sonpar, and invariably forms the first pole of the marriage pavilion. The *haldu* (adina cordifolia) yields a fairly durable wood, which is in some request for furniture and tools of husbandry; from the *bijaisal* (pterocarpus marsupium) are obtained good beams and a red gum resin known to commerce as *kino.* Its wood is used for making the drums which are beaten at religious ceremonies. The bark of the *kahua* or *arjun* (terminalia arjuna) is employed by Chamars in tanning, and the galls of the *harra* (terminalia chebula) are similarly utilized, its bark being largely exported to Ahraura bazar. From the *kulu* (sterculia urens) a valuable marketable gum, called *katila,* is procured. This tree derives the botancial name of sterculia from the foul smell of its leaves, and on its pinkish white bark is supposed to be written the name of *Rama.* The root of the *gamhar* (gmelina arborea) is used as a laxative and tonic medicine, and is useful in fevers: the wood is even-grained, durable and does not warp, and is consequently much in request for furniture, palanquins and similar articles. Other trees which need only be mentioned and whose utility is familiar to every one, are the *mahua*, the *bamboo*, and the sal or *sakhu*. The last named produces a gum called *dhup*, to obtain which many trees used, till preventive measures were taken, to be annually girdled and destroyed. Two others, the *asan* and the *khair*, are connected with small industries.

Sericulture.

The leaves of the *asan*, *asam*, or *sajja* tree (terminalia tomentosa) are the favourite diet of the silkworm.* The insect has no special name of its own but the industry of collecting the cocoons is generally spoken of as *koa*, which literally means a cocoon, and this term is sometimes loosely applied to the worm itself. The collections, which are chiefly in the hands of Kools, Bhuiyas and Dusadhs, are all made in the wild country south of Ahraura, beginning with the jungles on the Vindhyas and going on to Dudhi and the extreme south. The tract where cocoons are found is divided into circles, each man having the right to collect from his own circle and paying the *zamindar* dues as for other jungle products. Good, large, strong cocoons to the number of 300 or 400 are selected by each collector from the November crop, put in earthen vessels, and brought home. At the beginning of the following rains they are taken out and hung up in a position from which leaves of the *asan* tree are easily accessible. After a short time a moist spot is observed towards the upper end of the cocoon. This indicates that the moth within is preparing to break the shell and emerge into the light of day. The moths are of a beautiful russet colour: their wings are edged with a greenish-grey line in front and a red and white band behind, and on each wing is a spot about the size of a big pea, in the centre of which is a transparent membrane similar to beetles' wings. The length of the body of the moth is a little less than two inches, while the breadth from tip to tip of its wings when fully extended is over six inches. The female moth remains in the empty cocoon while the male flies about. The moths enjoy their winged existence only for a day. In the afternoon the rearers prepare a *chauka* or plot of ground plastered with cowdung, and place the fertilized females on it, where they begin to lay their eggs soon after dark. Two or three of these are tied together to prevent escape; and about 100 or 150 eggs are expected from each. The eggs are collected in an earthen pot. Next morning the heavy eggs are picked out from the light ones, either by means of a winnowing fan, called *sup*, or by throwing them all into cold water, when

* It also lives on the leaves of the *kakor* (zizyphus xylophera). The worm is generally known as *tasar* and is identified as *Antheræa Paphia* of the genus *Saturnidæ*.

the light eggs float on the surface. The selected eggs are next tied loosely in pieces of cloth and placed in a *nand* for about a week, the mouth of the *nand* being covered with a piece of cloth tied lightly round it. After eight days the *nand* is opened, and small worms about one tenth of an inch long are seen to have been hatched out of the eggs. These worms are then placed in a *dauna* or platter of *tendu* leaves, and hung up from an *asan* or *kakor* tree. The *dauna* is a hollow made up of two leaves stitched together and kept stretched by means of small twigs inserted within. The worms make their way out of these artificial shelters and begin to devour the leaves : from these they spread to the branches ; and as the latter become denuded, they are cut off with the worms and attached to other trees in full leaf. This process is continued for several weeks, until the worms are matured September is the time when the *tasar* worms attain full maturity and begin to spin their cocoons. Each seeks a convenient nest and builds up the cocoon in about three days, the inside being composed of silken fibres and the outside covered with a hard shell which protects the chrysalis till it grows into a moth. The September chrysalis soon emerges as a moth and lays its eggs, from which the worm hatches out, grows to maturity, and builds the cocoon of the second generation by the month of November. It is the November crop which goes to market, a few cocoons being still retained and hung up in the forest for the perpetuation of the species next year. The estimated average output is between 4,000,000 and 5,000,000 cocoons a year; and these are sold to traders of the Patwa caste, who come from Ahraura to purchase them, at a price varying between Rs. 4 and Rs. 10 per 1,000. The September cocoon, without the insect, weighs about 16 grains, and the November cocoon about 26 grains. From every hundred pounds of cocoons about 14½lb. of raw *tasar* are obtained, having a length of 2,082,500 yards. This sells at about Rs. 3-8-0 per pound.* There are several superstitions connected with sericulture. During the period when the worms are on the tree the proprietor remains in a state of ceremonial defilement. If he violates the rules laid down, it is believed that the silk worms will die.

* Monograph on Silk Fabrics. By Yusuf Ali, I.C.S., 1899, pages 4 and 22 to 25.

Catechu.

The manufacture of catechu from *khair* (acacia catechu) is carried on by a caste locally known as Khairahas. They live in the Palamau district and in Sarguja. In February they appear in the district and obtain leases of suitable jungles. Their factories are temporary erections and are built in any convenient place, generally on the banks of one of the larger rivers. The factory consists of a large mud-plastered square, on which are sunk the furnaces of the various proprietors. These furnaces are both oblong and circular in shape, and about three feet deep: on the top of each is placed a framework of sticks, plastered over with mud, with holes let in at regular intervals to contain the earthen pots in which the *khair* wood is boiled. The *khair* wood is chopped up into small pieces and boiled in the pots for one whole day. The deducted syrup is then poured into larger earthen vessels, and later run off into wooden troughs (*dongi*) of *salai* wood. Here it is left to evaporate, when it assumes a chocolate hue. It is then cut out of the *dongi* and worked up into cakes technically known as *tangis*. Each *tangi* weighs about five maunds and sells for Rs. 10-8-0. The stuff is readily bought up by local Banias. The *zamindar* levies a fee of Re. 1-8-0 for each furnace.

Groves

Groves of the ordinary type are practically confined to the Ganges valley, and consist for the most part of mango trees. The returns show that the area under groves is, on the average of the years from 1903 to 1907, greatest in taluqa Majhwa, where 1,441 acres or 5·36 per cent. of the total area are recorded, and after that in pargana Bhadohi, where 11,730 acres or 4·63 per cent. of the total area are covered by them. Next comes tappa Chhiyanve with 2·64 per cent.; but no other tract has as much as 2 per cent., and in Barhar and Saktesgarh the proportions are only ·16 and ·19 per cent., respectively. Taking the whole portion of the district for which returns are available, the area of grove land is only 23,205 acres or 1·23 per cent. of the total area of the tract.

Minerals.

The mineral products form a long and varied list. Some of them have already been noticed in connection with the geological character of the hills, but owing to the inaccessible nature of the tract where they occur, none of them have been exploited with the exception of building stone and limestone.

The former supports a large and flourishing industry. But before an attempt is made to describe the stone industry of Mirzapur it will be more convenient to indicate the other mineral wealth which exists in the district. In the southern area of Archæan gneiss, the two felspars, orthoclase and oligoclase, are usually co-existent in the rock or in the coarse pegmatite veins by which it is traversed. Mica, in the form of biotite, of a black or dark brown colour occurs, generally in small laminæ but occasionally associated with hornblende, the rock passing by gradations into hornblendic gneiss. A very handsome epidotic rock is found in a few places, for example in low hillocks to the south-west of Pokhra, being there composed of pink felspar and epidote with a little quartz. Limestones pass through all intermediate stages from a pure carbonate of lime to a typical dolomite, and are occasionally interbanded with serpentine of a rich green, constituting a fine verde-antique marble. In two patches of gneiss east of Koelkat, occurring as inliers in the Talchirs, limestone is very abundantly met with. It is for the most part a white crystalline rock, but the land to the east of Aundhi contains a very large admixture of wollastonite of a greyish-white colour and bright pearly lustre; while tremolite is very prevalent in the limestone of the Bichhi river. Corundum is not a product of the Singrauli pargana in Mirzapur, but it occurs just outside the limits of the district in Rewah Singrauli between the villages of Pipra and Kadopani, about four miles south of Kota. The corundum bed here is several yards thick, and the supply is practically inexhaustible. The quarrymen who work it are paid at the rate of one rupee for 3½ *kachcha* maunds raised. Their methods are primitive. Before commencing operations they are accustomed to sacrifice a kid to Devi, to insure good fortune and protection from accident: fires are then lighted against the large masses into which corundum is divided by jointing, and when they have been rendered somewhat more brittle by this means, they are gradually smashed by throwing other pieces at them. The mineral used formerly to be imported into Mirzapur by certain mahajans who dealt in it; but there was never any regular traffic, supplies being only sent for at intervals when required. Accidental minerals are not numerous in the gneiss

Felspar.

Mica.

Epidote.

Limestones and marble.

Corundum.

Lead. itself, but lead ores in the shape of galena occur to some extent. About three miles west-south-west of Charchari and one and a half south-west of Chiraikun in Sarguja, near the south-west boundary of Mirzapur, there is an abandoned lead mine formerly worked by a Mr. Burke. The rock in which it is situated is a reef of light grey, rather shattered, horny quartzite. At the mine it is double, there being one band of quartzite, some 50 feet thick, separated from a smaller one by some yards of gneiss, intersected by many shattered strings of quartz. The ore appears to have occurred in two pockets, one near the lower side of the quartzite band and the other near the upper side of the lower, in both cases near the band of gneiss which separates the two branches of the reef. Iron. Beds of iron ore in the shape of magnetite interlaminated with granular silicious layers are met with not infrequently, more noticeably in the crystalline inliers near Koelkat. This ore has long been used for the manufacture of iron. In Dudhi there are mines at Korchi on the Pangan river, this being the richest in iron, at Karwani, Nandihan and Kodari, in Agori, at Jungel, Parsoi, Tapu Kunch and Bargawan, and one or two other small villages: while in Singrauli there is a considerable supply close to the now abandoned coal mines in the Singrauli basin.

Iron smelting. The iron smelting of this neighbourhood is carried on by an aboriginal tribe called Agarias. At present no iron is fused by means of coal, wood charcoal being entirely used. The rough ore, which is generally of a dusky red colour, is dug, cleaned and ground by the Agaria and his family: and, on the third day, by which time the necessary charcoal has been prepared, the process of smelting commences. The furnace consists of a hollow cone of mud about three feet high. A bed of charcoal having been placed on the hearth, the furnace is half filled with charcoal, and charcoal and pounded ore, blended in proper quantities, are poured in through the top. The blast is produced by a pair of bellows, shaped like a pair of kettle drums and consisting of wooden basins loosely covered with leather in the centre of which is a valve. Strings attached to these leather covers are connected with a rude spring, which is made by fixing bamboo withes in the ground slantwise. The weight of the operator

or pair of operators is alternately thrown from one drum to another, the heels acting at each depression as stoppers to the valve. The blast is conveyed to the furnace by a pair of hollow bamboos and has to be kept up steadily, without intermission, for six or eight hours. From time to time ore and fuel are poured in on the top of the fire, and as the fusion proceeds the slag is tapped off by a hole pierced a few inches from the top of the hearth. As soon as the fusion is completed, the clay luting of the hearth is broken down, and the semi-molten mass, termed *giri*, is dragged out and immediately hammered. By this means a considerable amount of included slag, which is still in a state of fusion, is squeezed out. If the ore is good, it is calculated that five *sers* of ore yield one *ser* of iron at an expenditure of 15 *sers* of charcoal. The annual produce of one kiln may be estimated at 21 maunds of clean iron, which at current rates would be worth about Rs. 40. The best iron, known as *gonra*, sells at about 15 *sers* to the rupee, and that of the second class, called *chhariya*, at about 21 *sers*. Most of it is locally consumed, being made up into small axes, spades, sickles, ploughshares and the like. Some of these tools are made by the Agarias, but most of them are fashioned by the local *lohars*. Any that is bought for export passes into the hands of Banias, who take it in exchange for gram and other things and send it to Ahraura bazar. This iron has a high reputation for tenacity and endurance, and over 1,400 axes, spades and other implements made of it are annually sold in Ahraura. But the trade has suffered disastrously, here as elsewhere, from the competition of Belgian iron. The only likelihood of its resuscitation lies in the utilization of coal fuel and the invention of some simple form of furnace adapted to its use and capable of being worked by hand. The work, as now carried on, is very exhausting and laborious, particularly in the hot weather. All the profits go to the middleman Bania, and the Agaria, with wife and family, does not obtain on an average more than three or four annas per day.

The coal fields of the Singrauli basin belong to the Damuda group of the Gondwana series and are continuous with those of Rewah; the whole extend for some 30 miles to the west. The eastern limit is uncertain, but does not pass beyond the Rihand Coal.

river; while to the north and south, the limits are marked by the Aundhi hill and the Ballia rivulet. It was from this locality that all the coal was procured, which in former days used to be transported eighty miles across the Vindhyan plateau on pack bullocks in order to supply fuel for steamers plying on the Ganges. The workings were prosecuted at Kota, shafts being sunk 40 or 50 feet below the surface. The coal was acknowledged to be of good quality, to burn freely with a clear flame, leaving a white ash, but not to coke by ordinary means. But the fact that pack bullocks are the only means of communication which lie between the coal fields and the railway has so far proved an insuperable obstacle to the further exploitation of Singrauli coal. The mine has now been unworked for many years.

Hæmatite.

Besides the magnetite of the gneiss area, there is good iron ore in the Bijawar rocks, in the shape of hæmatite; but these deposits have never been worked.

Limestone and lime.

The lower Vindhyans of the Son valley contain, lithologically, the best limestones of the district. But they are cut off by their distance from the Mirzapur market; while the wants of the Son country are supplied by more convenient quarries situated lower down the course of the river. There are some limestones, however, in this series, along the lower slopes and at the foot of the Kaimur range; and a considerable import of stone lime is carried on by way of the Deccan road, partly from kilns in this district and partly from sources in the top members of the upper Vindhyans beyond its boundaries. A very fine lime is also burnt from the stalagmitic deposits below many of the falls over the Rewah and Kaimur escarpments. The usual selling rate of lime at the kilns is about 20 maunds per rupee, while the rates current in the Mirzapur bazar range from Rs. 50 to Rs. 125 for 100 maunds, the latter rate being that for *bari*, the fine lime used for chewing with *pan*.

Sulphate of iron.

In the Bijaigarh shale series of the upper Vindhyans, an impure and granular sulphate of iron, which in places forms a thick efflorescence, is found and is to a limited extent collected and exported.

Building stone.

The renowned building stone of Mirzapur is upper Kaimur sandstone. All the stone buildings of Benares and Mirzapur, as well as of many other towns of lesser note, have drawn their materials from this source. The chief quarries are at Mirzapur and Chunar,

whence the stone is sent by river or rail to long distances; and in the form of stone sugar-mills, querns, currystones, telegraph posts, boundary pillars and the like, is widely distributed over the whole countryside. The best stone is fine grained and homogeneous, usually yellowish and greyish white in colour, occurring in beds several feet thick; it is perfectly free for long distances from any kind of fissure or jointing. Consequently very large blocks can be extracted. Besides this, a rose-coloured variety of stone is very common, and greenish beds are occasionally met with. Both are used for building purposes, but the red stone is reputed to weather much better than the lighter coloured varieties. The harder, quartzite beds of the sandstone are locally employed, either alone or in combination with *kankar*, as road metal with a fair measure of success. Experiments, carried out to determine the transverse strength of the various kinds of stone in use on beams three feet square and three feet one inch long, established the fact that white varieties gave way under weights varying from 845 to 934lb. with an average of 890lb.; while the red variety proved somewhat more tenacious, breaking under loads ranging between 864 and 944lb., the average being 912·4lb. The red stone seems to be little affected by wet, losing less than 2 per cent. of its transverse strength when saturated with water, while the white stone loses nearly 46 per cent. of its endurance under the same circumstances. The stone is procured both by blasting and wedge driving, but principally by the latter process. The blasting powder used is usually a coarse compound of local manufacture. The cost of undressed stone, delivered at Mirzapur, including all expenses of quarrying, loading, carriage, and unloading is between Rs. 37 and Rs. 50 per 100 cubic feet. The rates for dressing this stone vary from four annas to Rs. 3 per cubic foot. The cost of small stones for building (*dhoka*) is Rs. 4-8-0 or Rs. 5 per 100 cubic feet.

The Stone Mahal.

The quarries from which the Mirzapur building stone is extracted are Government property, and bring into the public treasury an annual income of about Rs. 75,000. The exact origin of this source of revenue is obscure. Royalty on stone seems originally to have been levied and enjoyed by the governors of the fort of Chunar. In 1769 we find that they were divided between the governor of the fort and Raja Balwant Singh, but at that time

royalties were only collected in the Chunar portion of the stone mahal or on charges of stone passing Chunar. After the expulsion of Raja Chet Singh, the *qiladar* of the fort remained in full enjoyment of the privilege, but in 1781 A.D. this, with other heads of revenue, came under the control of the East India Company. For some years the commanding officer at Chunar enjoyed a moiety of the proceeds as a personal allowance, but eventually the whole was included in the military fund of Chunar. In 1788, in consequence of disagreement between the military authorities, the customs officer at Mirzapur and the leading merchants, Mr. Duncan rearranged the stone imposts, and the rules laid down by him were afterwards incorporated in Regulation XXII of 1795. The receipts continued to be credited to the Chunar military fund, and do not appear ever to have exceeded Rs. 12,000. During all this time the quarries were worked on the part of the Government, and the stone sold at fixed prices. But a change in procedure was introduced by Regulation II of 1800. Under the provisions of this regulation, the right to quarry stone was thrown open to the public, the Government levying a duty on the stone as it left the quarries and leaving the market price to be fixed by the conditions of supply and demand. At the same time the revenue was credited to the civil department; and this arrangement has subsisted to the present time, though Regulation II of 1800 has now been superseded by U. P. Act V of 1886, as amended by U. P. Act XII of 1891. From 1800 to 1820 the stone royalties were under direct management, the average income being about Rs. 34,000. For the next ten years they were farmed, and brought in between Rs. 47,000 and Rs. 51,000 per annum. Direct management was tried again after 1830 for a few years, but the results were not encouraging, and farming leases were again adopted till 1850, when direct management was finally resumed.*

For administrative purposes the quarries form a *mahal* divided into ten areas, namely, Gaipura, Birohi, Bindhachal, Mirzapur, Jhingura, Pahari, Dagmagpur, Chunar, Chilkitha and Ahraura.

*Thomason's despatches, volume I, page 146, Sel. Rec. N.-W. P. volume I, page 94, and N.-W. P. Gazette, August 3rd, 1878. Rules regulating the quarrying, transport and storage of stone were published in the N.-W. P. Gazette, 1889, part I, page 172.

The quarrying, cutting and transport of the stone to points of export are performed by private enterprise. The Government contents itself with the collection of duty. A special officer is stationed in each area with a staff of peons to carry out the collection, and is under the control of a superintendent, who is now an officer of the status of a tahsildar and directly subordinate to the collector of the district or one of his assistants. For stone destined for exportation, dépôts have been established at various points, such as railway stations and riverside *ghats.* Here the stone is usually dressed and pays duty prior to exportation, payment being proved by the production of a voucher from either the Mirzapur or the Chunar treasury. Duty, however, is levied on all stone used below the Vindhyan hills and its collection is also controlled by the staff. The duty varies with the nature of the stone, and is one anna per cubic foot on dressed stone, Re. 1-8-0 per 100 cubic feet on small building stones and four annas per 100 cubic feet on ballast; while manufactured articles such as currystones, millstones, potters' wheels and stone vessels for sale in the bazar pay various other rates of duty. The nature and extent of the work controlled may be gathered from the following figures. There are at present 285 villages which have quarries: of these 26 exist in Gaipura, 16 in Birohi, 29 in Bindachal, 34 in Mirzapur, 16 in Jhingura, 16 in Pahari, 32 in Dagmagpur, 49 in Chunar, 14 in Chilkitha and 53 in Ahraura. The total number of quarries is 13,689, ranging from 5,257 in Mirzapur to 132 in Chilkitha, but of the total only 2,926 are being worked, 1,200 being in Mirzapur. Besides this, there are 37 dépôts. The authorities have purchased large blocks of land at Mirzapur, Jhingura and Dagmagpur for the convenience of stone-dressers, and have constructed and maintain 36 miles of metalled and 149 miles of unmetalled road. This mileage is added to yearly. The industry is a growing one and yields an income of some Rs. 75,000. The cost of collection is Rs. 7,500 a year and Rs. 39,542 have been spent on improvements. The East Indian Railway has, by the opening of stations at intervals of every five miles, brought many quarries within easy reach of good transport.

Other minerals and building materials.

In the alluvial plain there is little mineral wealth to note, with the exception of *kankar*, which is found plentifully. It is,

however, of the inferior quality generally known as *bajri kankar*, the average cost per hundred cubic feet, stacked on the roadside, being Rs. 4. *Kankar* is generally used in this portion of the district for metalling roads; and the cost of so metalling one mile of road, nine feet wide, is Rs. 900. Salt was formerly manufactured to some extent in pargana Bhadohi, the soil in places being strongly impregnated with this mineral; but the imported article has now practically ousted the local product. In spite of the availability of excellent stone, bricks are much used for building purposes in the city and larger towns and are manufactured by several native contractors, the invariable size being 10″×5″×3″. Their price, however, varies according to the burning and moulding they receive. Those of the first class, called *awwal*, sell at Rs. 10 per thousand, those of the second class, *doyum*, at Rs. 8-8-0, and those of the third class, *siyum*, at Rs. 6 for a like quantity. Small country tiles are manufactured everywhere by village potters and form the ordinary roofing material of the cottage; but tiles of a superior quality and known as Allahabad tiles are also made in small quantities by one contractor at Mirzapur. These tiles are sold in couples, one being semi-circular in shape and the other flat, and they are sold at the rate of Rs. 80 per thousand. Planks and beams of mango, *jamun*, *babul* and similar common wood are usually employed in the construction of huts or small buildings; these can be locally procured at cheap rates from the jungles. But superior timber, such as *sal* and teak, is imported. Sal, which is used in the construction of roofs, comes generally direct from Nepal and costs, at Mirzapur, Rs. 3-8-0 or Rs. 4 a cubic foot. Teak is purchased in the Calcutta market; it costs, at Mirzapur, Re. 1-4-0 or Re. 1-8-0 per foot, the thickness being one and a half or two inches; and it is generally used for doors and windows.

Fauna.

In spite of the increase of cultivation and the incessant warfare waged against the denizens of the jungle with rifle and matchlock, the district may still be described as a favourite haunt of large game. Tigers are occasionally found in the Maharaja of Benares' preserves in Chakia, and are scattered over the whole country south of the Son. Elsewhere, except perhaps in the gorges of the Kaimurs on the Rewah boundary and the Vindhyan hills, they are unknown. The leopard is met with over the whole district

south of the Ganges; and the hyæna is a common beast of prey everywhere. The lynx is very rare. Wolves are to be found over the north of the district but are nowhere common, and in the southern tracts the wild dog (*kogi*) is a destructive pest to the cervidæ, whom it hunts in packs. Jackals and foxes as usual are abundant. Of the deer tribe, the *sambur* and *chital* are still numerous in the Chakia preserves; but elsewhere they are rare. The black buck and *chinkara* or ravine gazelle are for the most part confined to certain favoured localities; but the four-horned antelope is practically unknown. *Nilgai* frequent parts of the Ganges valley; and in the same tracts, the wild boar is tolerably common, particularly on the northern bank of the river, where patches of grass jungle afford excellent cover. Of smaller beasts there is the usual variety; and these are too well known to require description. The Ganges itself abounds in crocodiles, turtles and porpoises. In olden days the Vindhyan plateau and Sonpar must have been a chosen haunt of all species of wild animals. The Emperor Babar relates in his memoirs that maneless lions, wild elephants, rhinoceri and wild buffaloes used to roam over the Mirzapur hills, and were actually seen round his camp at Chunar. Some seventy years ago it is affirmed that a few bison were still to be met with in the extreme south: they have long since disappeared into Sarguja. The avifauna of the district include all the indigenous and common species of birds found in northern India; and most of the migratory species are occasional visitors. As a rule, however, game birds are very scarce, and aquatic species particularly so. Contrary to what might be expected, there is an astonishing absence of bird life in the arid jungles of Sonpar. The reason for this no doubt is the scantiness of the water supply; and it is only in a few localities, such as Gaharwargaon or Paraspani, that sufficient water is to be found to ensure their perpetual presence.

Of fish the Ganges affords the principal supply; and all the usual species are to be obtained in it. Mahseer are found in the Son and Belan; and the methods of fishing do not differ in any respect from those practised elsewhere, the one best adapted to the circumstances being adopted as occasion requires. Nets of different shapes and names, rods, and wickerwork traps of various sorts Fish.

are employed; and in the *jhils* wholesale captures are sometimes made by running off the water. In the hill streams of the district, poison is resorted to. Leaves of the *beri* and *tend*, or the sap of the *sihaur*, are thrown in the evening into small *jhils* and ponds or into the pools left in the course of a partially dried up stream. In the morning the fish are found stupefied by the poison and are captured without difficulty. In the rains mullet are harpooned. The principal fishing castes are Mallahs, Kewats, Khatiks, Binds, Pasis and Gonds. It appears, however, that few of these devote themselves entirely to this occupation as a means of support, for according to the returns of last census only 118 persons, including dependants of both sexes, were recorded as professional fishermen, and of the actual workers, 17 were partly agriculturists. Few, if any of the population likewise rely on fish as the principal article of diet, though the majority are occasional consumers of it.

Cattle. The domestic cattle of the district are generally of an inferior order. The animals used in agriculture, except in the few cases where the more opulent landholders have imported better breeds of draught oxen, are undersized and ill-fed. No attention is paid to breeding, nor are any cattle kept specially for stud purposes. The local breed is replaced, by all who can afford it, with imported varieties, those known as *purbi* from the neighbourhood of Janakpur in Bihar being specially prized for the plough. The *deoha* breed from the Ghagra country is also fancied, and bullocks from Allahabad, Banda and the Central Provinces are largely purchased at the cattle mart of Karma in the district of Allahabad: these are specially esteemed as pack animals and are generically known as "Damoh" cattle. A local saw runs "*jotai purbi, ladai damohi; hanga ke jo deoha hoi,*" meaning "the *purbi* for the plough, the *damoh* for the pack, and the *deoha* for the clod crusher." Buffaloes are occasionally used both for pack work and draught, and also, though less commonly, in the plough. On the other hand the cow-buffalo is bred for its milk, which is both locally largely consumed and is also the source of most of the *ghi* which comes to the bazar. On the whole the buffalo of the district is a better bred animal than the ox, and some really fine specimens may occasionally be seen employed in the haulage of stone from the

quarries. The price of an average pair of locally bred bullocks is Rs. 30; while that of a bull buffalo will seldom exceed Rs. 10. On the other hand cow buffaloes, when good milk-givers, will occasionally fetch six times that sum.

Cattle census.

Mirzapur is one of those districts of the province which possess large jungle grazing grounds of their own, and consequently the proportion of cattle in it per plough is higher than that in most of the less favourably situated districts of the province. From July to November, cattle are extensively grazed throughout the hill tracts and find ample reserves of fodder in the Vindhyan and Sonpar jungles; but at the close of the rains the herds move slowly southwards through Dudhi and Singrauli to the waste pasturages of Sarguja and Manipat, beyond the boundaries of Mirzapur. The first regular census of stock was taken in August 1899, but there are no older figures collected in the same way, with which its results can be compared. Previously, annual totals were supplied by the *patwaris* from their *milan khasras*, but the totals were never checked, and their value thus became small. In 1899 it was found that there were 190,973 bulls and bullocks and 2,638 male buffalloes in the district, excluding the Family Domains, giving a total of 196,611 plough animals, or an average of 3·2 animals per plough. This figure was considerably above the provincial average at the time and in excess of that of other districts in the division. Of other stock there were 181,231 cows, 38,511 cow buffaloes, and 165,289 young stock. A second census was taken in January 1904, and it was then ascertained that there were no less than 341,209 bulls and bullocks and 6,579 bull buffaloes in the whole district, including the Family Domains. At the same time the number of ploughs had risen to 121,226, with the result that the average number of animals per plough did not exceed 2·8; while there were 294,624 cows, 85,125 cow buffaloes and 296,155 head of young stock. The most recent census of agricultural stock was taken in January 1909, but the returns do not include the figures for the Family Domains. In the rest of the district there were 259,978 bulls and bullocks and 2,575 male buffaloes. At the same time 84,526 ploughs were recorded, the proportion of animals per plough being 3·10. According to the latest returns for 1907-08 the normal cultivated area of

the entire district is reckoned to be 937,000 acres, so that the plough duty calculated on the returns of 1904 amounts to 7·7 acres per plough. The increase in plough cattle during the ten years that have elapsed since the first regular stock census was taken in 1899 is very great; but it is by no means confined to this head. For in 1909 it was found that there were 248,000 cows in the district, excluding the Family Domains, 56,462 cow buffaloes, and 242,700 head of young stock.

Sheep and goats.

The returns of 1904 gave a total of 113,200 sheep and 139,889 goats in the whole district, the corresponding figures for 1909 being 66,457 sheep and 117,771 goats for all but the Family Domains. The former number was only exceeded by one district in the province, namely, Allahabad, but the latter is not in any way remarkable by comparison. Sheep are largely bred for the butcher, for their wool, and for penning on the land. Their droppings serve as the most popular and valuable form of manure, and the existence of a hamlet of Gadariyas or shepherds is regarded as a sure sign of the prosperity and fertility of the village. The payment made for the use of the flocks varies with the locality and the demand, but on an average the shepherd receives between 8 to 12 *sers* of unhusked grain, or about 8 annas in cash, for twenty-four hours' use of one hundred sheep. The total cost of manuring a *bigha* by this means is put at Rs. 2-8-0; but Gadariyas have been known to combine on occasions and obtain much higher rates. Goats are also bred for the butcher, for their milk which is converted into *ghi*, and for their skins. The average price of a goat is about Re. 1 only; but that of a sheep is somewhat higher: the flesh of neither, however, is much consumed locally. Milch goats fetch of course considerably higher prices, ranging from Rs. 3 to Rs. 5.

Other animals.

The other domestic animals call for no special mention. There is no indigenous breed of horses in the district, and the local pony is of the usual under-fed and weedy description. It sells locally from Rs. 10 to Rs. 15 a head; but horses are much more expensive, being as a rule imported. There were 7,439 horses and ponies recorded in 1904, out of which 2,238 fell under the head of horses or mares, the figures for the district outside the Family Domains in 1909 being 1,178 horses and 4,225 ponies. Mules in 1904

numbered only 92, and donkeys 3,356; the latter are of the normal type, owned for the most part by Dhobis and Kumhars and employed solely as beasts of burden. No attempt has been so far made to improve the breed of horses by the provision of stallions, nor has any mule-breeding been undertaken. Camels are relatively numerous, compared with other districts in the east of the province, and in 1904 numbered 470; and there were 2,034 carts.

Cattle disease.

Cattle disease is more or less prevalent in the district, especially in the south, but accurate statistics are practically impossible to obtain. The people themselves generally distinguish two varieties, rinderpest, which is supposed to be identical with the human small-pox and called *chechak*, and foot and mouth disease, known as *khang* or *khangwa*. Rinderpest is most prevalent during the hotter months of the year, when the animals are in poor condition and more liable to infection; nor are there any indigenous methods of treating it. The treatment advocated by rural cattle doctors for foot and mouth disease is the application of lime to the feet, the fomentation of the mouth and the surrounding parts with a hot decoction of the bark of the *palas* or *dhak* tree, and also occasionally to make the affected cattle stand in pools of muddy water. Some attempt has now been made to ensure the accurate reporting of cattle disease and to check its spread by the appointment of two peripatetic veterinary assistants to the district. During the last year for which statistics are available, 1907-08, 249 animals were reported to have died of contagious diseases, out of which foot and mouth disease accounted for 221. During the same year, 730 animals were inoculated against rinderpest and 10 against hæmorrhagic septicæmia.

Climate.

The climate of Mirzapur differs from that of more western districts chiefly in the decreased tendency to extremes. Except locally as at Chunar, where the bare rocks reflect and concentrate the sun's rays, the greatest heat is somewhat less than the average in the west of the province; but the actual discomfort is often greater owing to the fitful and uncertain character of the hot winds. The cold weather is also less marked; the really chilly days being very few in number, and the heat rapidly returning after the middle of February. At the changes of season, that is, when the hot weather is commencing and when the rains are ceasing, the ranges of the

thermometer during the night are often considerable, and are no doubt in part responsible for the prevalence at such times of malarious fevers. The rains as a rule commence somewhat earlier in Mirzapur than further upcountry; but their close is proportionally early, and an interval of extremely hot weather often intervenes between the last rain and the November cold. No regular thermometrical observations have been kept at Mirzapur, but the temperature varies from 109° in June, the hottest month, to 28° in December the coldest.

Rainfall. Records of the rainfall are available at Mirzapur itself from 1861; at Robertsganj, Chakia, Chunar and Korh, from 1864; and at Dudhi from 1874 onwards. According to these the mean average fall for the district is 42·32 inches. The distribution varies considerably: as a rule Robertsganj, lying below the Kaimurs, receives more than other parts, the average for this portion of the district being 45·27 inches. Next comes the Sonpar station of Dudhi with 42·76 inches, followed by Mirzapur and Chunar with 41·78 and 41·93 respectively; while Chakia has only an average of 40·71 inches. The least favoured tract is Korh, to the north of the Ganges, where the fall averages only 38·27 inches. The annual variations exhibited are considerable. The wettest years on record were 1894, with a fall of 62·47 inches; 1893, with an average of 61·21; 1874, with 58·27 and 1897, with 56·71 inches. The highest fall ever recorded was 73·88 inches at Robertsganj in 1893, and after this comes one of 70·46 at Mirzapur in 1894. In the latter year, Korh, Chunar and Chakia received their highest falls with 64·08, 62·85 and 61·54 inches respectively; but Dudhi received 63·03 inches in 1903, and this figure has not been surpassed there since records have been maintained. The years, on the other hand, in which the rainfall has been in marked deficiency over the district are few: only on five occasions has it fallen below 30 inches, and then the defect has been generally confined to particular localities. In 1864, the worst year on record, only 23·12 inches were recorded, Chunar and Korh being the worst sufferers with 16·50 inches apiece. In 1887, the district average amounted to 27·68 inches, but it ranged from 36·80 in Dudhi to 19·10 in Chakia; and again in 1880, Robertsganj received 32·90 inches while Korh received only 18·40, the district average being 23·98 inches. In 1896, 39·26 inches fell in Dudhi as against 20·89

in Mirzapur. The whole of the district south of the Vindhyan hills is absolutely dependent on local rainfall for agriculture; and in this connection the precipitation in the month of September is of peculiar importance. It will be seen, when the subject of famines is under consideration, that the failure of the later rains is productive of widespread loss and misery. The most sensitive of the local tracts are tappas Upraudh and Chaurasi in pargana Kantit to the north, and pargana Dudhi to the south.

With the exception of a few localities where fever is always rife, Health. the district may be considered normally a healthy one. This fact is supported by an examination of the mortuary statistics, and it will be found that the local returns correspond very closely with the provincial average. For purposes of registration the district is divided into six urban and 26 rural circles, each of which is further divide into sub-circles. From 1881 to 1890, the average recorded number of deaths was 34,418 annually, giving a rate of 30·27 per mille: this figure may be accepted as normal, for on no occasion in it was any excessive mortality returned, and on two occasions, namely in 1883 and 1885, the number of deaths was below the average. During the ensuing decade, the annual mortality was 38,936, ranging from 60,939 and 55,207 in 1897 and 1894 to 30,019 in 1898, the resultant rate, calculated on the census returns of 1891, being 33·52 per mille and being inflated by the excessive mortality of the years just mentioned. From 1901 to 1907, the recorded annual mortality was 35,403 or 32·71 per thousand.* The number of deaths was again exceptionally high in 1905, and was above normal in 1906; so that generally it may be said that the normal death-rate does not exceed 31 per mille. The unusual mortality, particularly in the decade ending in 1901, has had some effect on the population; and during that period the average birth-rate only exceeded the average death-rate by the narrow margin of ·26 per mille. From 1881 to 1890, on the other hand, the birth-rate averaged 36·18 per thousand and between 1901 and 1907 it rose as high as 40·82 or over 8·0 per thousand in excess of the death-rate. This indicates generally that the vitality of the people has not been in any way impaired by the calamities of the previous ten years, and in 1904 the birth-rate rose as high as 45·65· per mille.

* Appendix, table III.

Diseases.

In another table in the appendix the number of deaths occurring from the principal forms of diseases in each year since 1891 will be found.* As usual fever heads the list, for not only is malarial fever undoubtedly prevalent, but the term is as a rule made to include all cases in which fever is the predominant symptom rather than the cause of death. Consequently, in the absence of better diagnosis, under this head comes pneumonia and many other forms of sickness. Intermittent and remittent fever, accompanied with ague, are endemic in parts of the districts, especially in the Dudhi valley; they attack all classes, but the poor and aboriginal tribes suffer much owing to insufficient clothing and ungenerous diet. From 1877 to 1907, fever was responsible, according to the returns, for 71·60 per cent. of the recorded mortality, but the proportion appears to have considerably diminished of late years, for it was 75·63 per cent. between 1881 and 1890, and only 64·74 per cent. between 1901 and 1907. The decrease is steady, for, as a rule, the number of deaths returned under this head is fairly constant.

Cholera.

Of other diseases, cholera is the most deadly: cases of it have been reported in every year since the institution of the returns, and only on one occasion have less than 100 deaths been recorded in any year. On the other hand, there have been some violent epidemics, and in 1886 no less than 7,885 deaths were attributed to this cause. On two other occasions, 1906 and 1894, 4,411 and 3,372 deaths were reported, and years in which the mortality from this cause exceeds 1,500 are numerous. Outbreaks of cholera with a resultant large mortality are a feature common to several of the eastern districts of the province, but it appears from the returns that the period which began in 1901 has, with the exception of the year 1906, been so far in Mirzapur remarkably free from bad epidemics of the disease. Much of the cholera in the more remote tracts is due to the difficulty of procuring good drinking water; so that a year in which the monsoon has been deficient is invariably marked by an increase in the mortality from cholera.

Small-pox.

Though in more recent years severe epidemics have not been unknown, it may be said that in Mirzapur, as in other districts of the province, there has been a progressive immunity from small-pox

* Appendix, table III.

From 1877 to 1890, the average mortality was 1,564 annually, three serious outbreaks having occurred in 1878, 1879 and 1884, when over 4,000 deaths were recorded. The good results of protective measures are very well illustrated in the district. From 1891 to 1900, the annual recorded mortality had fallen to 816; and between 1901 and 1907 has not exceeded the low figure of 200. Vaccination was started soon after the Mutiny, but for many years the progress effected was small, and as late as the decade 1881 to 1890, only 17,745 operations were carried out annually. Marked improvement appears to have set in in the year 1896, when the number of persons vaccinated almost doubled. During the decade from 1891 to 1900, an average of 29,266 vaccinations were effected; but since 1901, the high average of 35,855 has been reached. The district, as a result of this, is now well protected. Vaccination is compulsory in the municipality of Mirzapur and the notified areas of Chunar, to all of which the Vaccination Act (XIII of 1880) was extended in 1891. The vaccination staff for the district consists of an assistant superintendent and 22 vaccinators, maintained, in 1908, at a cost of Rs. 2,800, divided between the district board and the municipalities.

Other diseases.

The other diseases prevalent in the district call for no special remark. Dysentery and bowel complaints are responsible for a number of deaths every year, and in many cases occur as a result of malarious fevers. Bubonic plague first made its appearance in January 1900. Two years later it assumed an epidemic form, 1,864 deaths being reported. The following year it died down, but in 1904 there was a recrudescence of the disease, the mortality rising to 3,582 in that year and to 5,936 in 1905. In 1906 there was again a lull, but in 1907 plague once more became widespread and over 5,000 deaths were again returned. It has not disappeared yet.

Infirmities.

Statistics of infirmities were first compiled at the census of 1872. It was then observed that there were 109 lunatics, 200 lepers, 115 deaf mutes and 1,119 blind persons in the district. Ten years later the number of insanes had increased to 112, lepers to 396, deaf mutes to 491 and blind persons to 2,128. The reason for this general increase is not apparent, for in 1819 there was

a general decline all round. The district then contained 81 lunatics, 274 lepers, 482 deaf mutes and 1,324 blind persons. At the last enumeration in 1901, the totals returned were 76 lunatics, 182 lepers, 361 deaf mutes and 1,132 blind persons—a further marked decrease under all heads. The figures are in no way remarkable: on the whole the number of the population afflicted in these ways is less than in the majority of the districts of Agra and considerably less than in those of Oudh.

CHAPTER II.

AGRICULTURE AND COMMERCE.

Cultivated area.

With the exception of the figures recorded at the permanent settlement, no statistics of cultivation are available in Mirzapur before the year 1885; and consequently it is impossible to establish any comparison between existing conditions and those which prevailed at earlier dates. The last revision of records was completed in 1886, having occupied a period of some four years; but even then the figures referred only to that portion of the district which lies within the Gangetic valley, excluding the Family Domains of the Maharaja of Benares. Moreover, though the parganas and tappas situated on the Vindhyan plateau were at the same time cadastrally surveyed, the whole tract to the south of the Kaimurs was left untouched. Consequently the only available figures are those for tahsils Mirzapur, Chunar, and so much of Robertsganj as is included in pargana Barhar and a portion of Bijaigarh, or 2,400·5 square miles of country. From 1885 to 1897 the average area under the plough in this portion of the district was 587,240 acres or 38·22 per cent. of the total area. The area shows considerable fluctuations from year to year. These are due to the varying characteristics of the upland and lowland tracts; for, while in the alluvial plain of the Ganges cultivation is on the whole constant, the parganas lying on the tableland are wholly dependent on the monsoon, any irregularity of which is at once reflected in large areas of fallow. During this period the highest recorded acreage was 630,978 acres in 1894, a season of regular and heavy rainfall; at the other extreme is the year 1897 when only 385,808 acres were under the plough. The period may generally be said to have been one of prosperity, for on no less than six occasions during it the cultivated area exceeded 600,000 acres; while, excluding 1897, it only fell on one below 550,000. The five years succeeding the famine appear to have been years of slow recovery, and it was not until 1903 that the area under the plough once more

approached the average of the period that preceded it. In 1905 it again advanced beyond 600,000 acres; and the decennial average from 1898 to 1907 amounts to 558,617 acres or 35 per cent. of the total area. The state of development in the various parganas varies likewise with their natural characteristics. It is highest in Bhuili, where on the average 44,617 acres or 78·98 per cent. of the whole are under the plough. Bhuili is followed by Qariat Sikhar aud Majhwa, in both of which the area exceeds 74 per cent. Kon has a proportion of 72·44 per cent. and Haveli Chunar of 71·80 per cent. The upland parganas come behind at a considerable interval, for in Chaurasi 38·08 per cent. and in Bhagwat 36·80 per cent. of the whole area is under tillage, a proportion which approximates closely to the 38·36 per cent. of Barhar and Bijaigarh. An intermediate position is held by Chhiyanve with 52·90 per cent., while lowest in the scale are Upraudh and Saktesgarh with only 26·49 and 19·74 per cent., respectively, of their total areas under the plough. There remain tahsils Korh and Chakia, in which 64·86 per cent. of the total area is recorded as under cultivation; but these figures must, owing to the less elaborate system of compilation and supervision pursued in the Family Domains, be accepted with reserve

Double cropping.

The diminution in the net area under the plough, however, is not so great as might at first sight be imagined, owing to the greater extent to which the practice of double cropping is now followed. From 1885 to 1897 the area bearing two harvests in the year averaged 95,466 acres or 16·25 per cent. of the net cultivation. The acreage ranged from 58,898 acres in 1897 to the high figure of 152,080 acres in 1894. During the next ten years the average rose to 113,026 acres or 20·23 per cent.; and, although the high figure of 1894 was not exceeded in seven years out of the ten, the *dofasli* area rose well above 100,000 acres. The proportion is highest in the Chunar tahsil, pargana Bhuili coming first with an average of 40·50 per cent. for the five years from 1903 to 1907; it is followed by Haveli Chunar with 24·08, Bhagwat with 23·68, Saktesgarh with 21·85, Qariat Sikhar with 21·33 and Ahraura with 20·49 per cent. In Robertsganj, parganas Barhar and Bijaigarh both have over 26 per cent. of their

cultivation bearing a double crop in the year; and in the Family Domains the proportion is 23·85 per cent., varying from 29·78 in Kera-Mangraur to 21·27 in Bhadohi. In Mirzapur tahsil the averages are lower, the highest being that of Majhwa, 19·37 per cent., and the lowest that of Chhiyanve, 8·50 per cent. If this increase be taken into consideration, the decrease in the area under crops amounts to less than 10,000 acres, when the decade from 1898 to 1907 is compared with the period lasting from 1885 to 1897. If the initial quinquennium covering the years from 1885 to 1889 be compared with that from 1903 to 1907, it will be found that so far from there being a decrease, there has been a remarkable increase; for the cropped area during the latter period amounted to an average of 717,938 acres, as against a similar area of 673,626 acres in the former period, or a total gain of over 44,000 acres in the area devoted to crops. This result is practically entirely due to the expansion of the area under two crops, which accounts for 43,000 acres of the difference.

In the preceding chapter it was shown that the barren and unculturable area of the surveyed portion of the district has averaged for the last five years 19·76 per cent. of the total, and if this be added to the cultivated area there remains 41·02 per cent. as culturable land, the actual extent being 642,149 acres. This figure is, however, subject to extensive deductions. In the first place it includes grove land, which amounts to 10,728 acres, and 1,895 acres of land prepared for sugarcane. New fallow should also be excluded as such land lies waste only temporarily. This occupies 134,615 acres; and consequently there remain but 293,867 acres of old fallow and 201,660 of so-called culturable waste. The distinction between the two is often very slight, as also is that between the latter category and barren land. Most of it is of very poor quality, especially in the villages which lie on the Vindhyan plateau, and it is probably true, at least in the parganas of the Gangetic valley, that all fields which are capable of profitable tillage have already been brought under the plough. Taking culturable waste and old fallow together, the highest proportion is 33·84 per cent. of the total area in the surveyed portions of Robertsganj, followed by 33·75 per cent. in tahsil Mirzapur and 27·25 per cent. in tahsil Chunar. The individual Culturable waste.

parganas, however, which make up these tahsils, show very wide discrepancies, pargana Saktesgarh heading the list with no less than 45·32 per cent.; and after it come Upraudh, 42·43 per cent., and Ahraura, 42·01 per cent. At the bottom of the scale is tappa Kon, where only 2 per cent. of the available land has not been brought under cultivation at some time or other; while in Qariat Sikhar and Majhwa the proportion is a little over 4 per cent.

Cultivation.

The methods of cultivation followed in this district present no peculiar features. The plough is the same rude instrument which has been handed down from time immemorial. The depth of tillage varies from about four inches in hard lands to seven in the rich *balua*; and the number of ploughings from thirty-five, the average for sugarcane, to only two for gram and similar crops. One local rhyme says:—"Plough a hundred times for radishes, and fifty times for cane, twenty-five for barley, and you will get a crop to your liking;" while another states that "it is no good to over-plough *urd* or *chana*." The art of manuring is generally well understood, but the want both of materials and capital, as well as the necessary knowledge, combine to render artificial fertilization an unimportant factor in rural economy. Where cattle are abundant, cowdung is used as manure, either by collecting and ploughing in their droppings or by tethering herds on the fields which it is desired to enrich; but the demand for this material as fuel greatly diminishes the supply available for manure. The refuse of the villages, stocked during the idle months of the year, usually after being burnt, is another fertilizing agent much in vogue, especially for cane; and *mutar* or the ashes of the potter's kiln, which are first strewn upon the floor of cattle sheds till they are thoroughly saturated with the evacuations, is a common form of manure. The custom of firing the jungle borders to obtain fertile land still prevails in Sonpar. It is termed *dahya*. The brushwood at the edge of the jungle is burnt down, and at the commencement of the rains *rui* or cotton is sown on the land that has been so cleared. The advantages of fallowing and rotation are understood in a general way; but no scientific system is applied to the latter, and the smallness of the holdings in the Gangetic valley tends to restrict the practice of the former. Fields from which a crop of cereals, gram, lentils or linseed have been taken,

are locally called *del;* while those which have produced *juar*, *arhar*, and other crops are known as *masel*. *Del* land is generally turned to account for a *kharif* crop, unless manure is available, when a succession of cereals is taken off it. A *masel* field is allowed to remain fallow all one rainy season and is then sown with cereal crops. Again, every four or five years, lands devoted to *rabi* crops are put at least once under *arhar;* and early rice is usually followed by peas, gram, or lentils, and less frequently by a mixed crop of barley and peas. Sugarcane is often followed by wheat, the high tillage required for the former having rendered the soil peculiarly suitable for the cultivation of the latter. The wheat will, as a rule, be followed by an autumn crop. In the third year after the removal of the cane, the land is said to be *mari* or dead, and a season of fallow follows. In Sonpar the transplanted rice crop or *jarhan* is always grown on the same land which is technically known as *kiari;* and in *gonra* land, maize is usually followed by wheat or barley. Both there and on the Vindhyan plateau, however, the sparse population admits of a freer use of fallowing than in the Gangetic valley; and this is in unmanured land practically the only means resorted to for preserving the productive powers of the soil.

Observvances connected with agriculture.

Religious and superstitious observances are connected with every phase of agricultural life. Before ploughing the cultivator consults the family priest, who casts for him an augury and names an auspicious day and hour. The ploughs are then repaired, and at the appointed time the cultivator alone, or with his ploughman if his caste be one of those above manual labour, takes his stick and a vessel of water, and, driving his plough to the lucky corner of the field, makes five furrows in the ground, pours the water on the plough, and returns home, speaking to no man by the way. His house-folk meanwhile have prepared a meal of curds and *gur*, which he must eat the moment he returns; the ploughman also gets a share and is dismissed with a *ser* or two of grain. The auspicious day does not always fall in the ploughing season; it is some times in June, long before a plough can be put into the ground. The same ceremony, however, is gone through, save that the five furrows are replaced by five scratches with a mango twig. The commencement of sowings is attended with similar ceremonies;

they conclude with the casting of five handfuls of *sawan* for the *kharif* sowings and the same quantity of barley for the *rabi*, in the auspicious corner of the field. An observance, which appears to be peculiar to the *rabi* sowings, is that the cultivator's wife fills a small sieve from the baskets of seed grain, before they are sent to the fields, and reserves it for the propitiation of the family god. The sowing of sugarcane, the most prized of all crops, is attended with the greatest ceremony. The day is kept as a sort of festival and half a dozen canes and a day's wages are usually given to the labourers. After the cane slips have all been planted, an entire cane, called the *raja*, is buried in the centre of the field, and the slips that are left over are thrown among the village boys, who scramble for them. The same evening, the women of the house or hired labourers, if the farmer is of high caste, carry ash manure to the fields, singing as they go, and on their return receive five pieces of sugar cake each. When the crops are ripe, the family priest is again called in to name an auspicious day for the commencement of the reaping. After the grain has been threshed, it is collected in two heaps, a larger and a smaller one, the latter, known as *agwar*, being that from which the labourers' wages are paid. Some implement of iron is placed in the centre of the larger heap, and a circle is traced round the grain with cowdung. Two basketfuls are then taken out, of which one is set aside for the propitiation of the gods and ultimately falls to the officiating Brahman priest; and the other for the pacification of the *dihwar* or *genius loci* who is supposed to haunt the village. A burnt offering of *ghi* is then made and sundry prayers recited by the family priest, after which the grain is measured and carried home. The cutting of sugarcane is preceded by special ceremonies. The date chosen is always the *Deo uthan ekadasi*, the 26th of the month *Kartik*. A Brahman is called to the field with materials for a burnt offering, consisting of rice, flour, turmeric and flowers. Five canes are tied together, sprinkled first with water and then with the rice, flour and turmeric, and presented with flowers. After this the cane is adorned with the cultivator's wife's *hasuli* or necklet; a burnt offering is made, and a bundle is cut by way of first-fruits and carried home and eaten. After this the regular cutting begins.

Harvests. There are the usual harvests, called by the usual names and known as the *kharif* or autumn, the *rabi* or spring, and

the *zaid* or additional harvest. The last is, as is ordinarily the case, of little importance: its extent varies according to the nature of the season; but the area shows little expansion or contraction, nor is a large acreage put under *zaid* crops in a year of drought to supplement a deficient *rabi* harvest. From 1903 to 1907, the average cropped area in the *zaid* harvest has amounted to only 950 acres for the surveyed portion of the district, the chief crops grown being *chena*, garden crops and melons. Of the two main harvests the *kharif* is the more important, the area having averaged in the surveyed portion of the district and the Family Domains, during the same period, 536,859 acres as against 465,677 acres sown in the spring. The relative position of the spring and autumn harvests not only varies with the nature of the season, but is different in the different parts of the district. Thus the *kharif* largely preponderates in Upraudh, Chaurasi, and Saktesgarh; while the opposite is the case in Kon, Majhwa, Bhagwat and Bhuili. But in no pargana or tappa except Upraudh and Chaurasi is the discrepancy in the areas devoted to the different harvests very marked. The preponderance of the *kharif* is only to be expected in the upland parganas, and it will be observed that in the Gangetic valley the *rabi* is the principal harvest. Pargana Bhadohi, however, is an exception to this rule, for in it the *kharif* area on the average exceeds the *rabi*.

Kharif crops.

In the portion of the district which lies north of the Kaimurs, including the Family Domains, the largest area covered by any crop in the *kharif* harvest is that covered by rice. Between 1903 and 1907 rice occupied on an average 208,878 acres or 38·91 per cent. of the total area devoted to autumn crops. The highest proportion in any one pargana was 74·74 per cent. in Kera-Mangraur; but this figure was closely approached by 73·52 per cent. in Bhuili; and in Bijaigarh as much as 56·70 and in Saktesgarh 52·53 per cent. of the *kharif* consisted of this crop. In Bhagwat, Ahraura, Barhar and Bhadohi the district average is generally a little exceeded, and in Majhwa, Upraudh and Chaurasi the proportion is somewhat lower; but in Qariat Sikhar, Kon, Haveli Chunar and Chhiyanve little rice is produced, Qariat Sikhar devoting less than one per cent. of the *kharif* area to it. The rice grown in Mirzapur is of many different varieties; about 62 per cent. in the

24 per cent. Altogether an average of 103,100 acres or 22·14 per cent. of the *rabi* area is occupied by these staples, wheat, barley, and gram in combination with each other as against 235,292 acres or 50·50 per cent. covered by them unmixed. The remainder of the *rabi* harvest is taken up for the most part by linseed, peas and *kirao*, a variant species of pea. Linseed occupies on an average 36,736 acres or 7·89 of the spring harvest, and is most largely grown in Saktesgarh and Upraudh, where 23·27 and 22·22 per cent. of the area of *rabi* cultivation respectively is devoted to it: elsewhere it is found in smaller quantities and in the Gangetic valley is little grown at all. Peas cover an average of 32,671 acres or 7·02 per cent. of the harvest, the highest proportion being in Majhwa and Bhuili; while the variety known as *kirao*, which occupies 25,552 acres on an average, occurs most largely in Bhuili: elsewhere it is found in Barhar and Bijaigarh of tahsil Robertsganj and in the contiguous parganas of Chunar, namely Saktesgarh, Bhagwat and Ahraura. The remaining *rabi* crops call for little notice. Some 4,500 acres are annually sown with opium, the bulk of which is in Kera-Mangraur; and very much smaller areas are devoted to *sarson* or *lahi*, mustard and rapeseed, and to garden crops.

Crops in the Sonpar tract.

No regular records are kept up of the crops grown in the tract of country lying south of the Kaimur range, so that the areas devoted to the different harvests cannot be obtained and only a general outline of the methods of cultivation prevailing there can be given. The *kharif* is the principal harvest, and as in the north of the district rice is the most important crop. It is divided into two classes, the *bhadai* or broadcast rice, so called because it ripens in the month of *Bhadon*, and the *jarhan* or transplanted rice, which comes to maturity in *Kartik*. Of *bhadai* the chief varieties grown are *serha*, which is superior, and *bakar* which is of inferior quality; the chief varieties of *jarhan* are known as *sambar*, *jalha*, *raichuni* and *danto*. *Bhadai* rice is sown broadcast after three ploughings, 15 *sers* of seed being required for one *bigha* of land and the produce being estimated at six maunds for a similar area. *Jarhan* rice is treated with more care. The field is ploughed some four times; the seed is first planted in a nursery, called *behan*, and then transplanted into the field, the operation being known as *ropna* or *baithalna*. Twenty-eight *sers* of seed are required for a *bigha*

and the average yield is estimated at eight maunds. After rice, the most widely sown crop is *kodon*, two varieties, *dhanaili* and *ledariya*, being recognized. The land is ploughed for this three times, and the seed is sown with the first rain in July: it is generally intermixed with *arhar* in the proportion of seven to one, the produce on seven *sers* of *kodon* and one *ser* of *arhar* seed, which is the usual allowance for one *bigha* of land, being about six maunds of *kodon* and between two and three of *arhar*. Another popular crop in Sonpar is *sawan*, which is treated similarly to *kodon*, though it is generally not intermixed with *arhar* and produces a smaller outturn; and another inferior millet, which is almost peculiar to this portion of the province, is *mijhri*.* This is sown in *Bhadon* and reaped in *Aghan*; and the produce, which is very precarious as the crop is grown on the poorest land, is estimated at about a maund to two *sers* of seed. Other *kharif* crops grown in Sonpar are the inferior pulses known as *urd* or *urid* and *barai*; the poor vetch called *kesari* which is sown on the *bhadai* rice-fields after the rice has been cut; maize, the cultivation of which is confined to the fertilized land in the vicinity of the settlements; and the oilseeds, called *til* and *parbati*. The large millets, *juar* and *bajra*, are unknown south of the Son. The *rabi* harvest is very much smaller than the *kharif*, as far as the area sown is concerned; but the crops grown do not differ from those found north of the river. Wheat of the inferior or red variety is planted in the best land; elsewhere barley and gram prevail, alone or intermixed. The latter crop is known variously as *but* and *rahla*. *Sarson* or mustard; *alsi* or linseed, usually sown on the outskirts of the holding as it needs no watching; and *mattar* or peas and *masur* or lentils are all found in small quantities. Here and there melons are produced for the *zaid* or additional harvest.

Irrigation.

The portion of the district which lies in the Gangetic valley is well provided with means of irrigation, and to this reason may be assigned in part its comparative immunity from famine. It is otherwise with the upland tracts. Here little irrigation is done except in the waterlogged strip of country below the Kaimurs in parganas Barhar and Bijaigarh; while in the Sonpar tract, there has always been a lack of water for human consumption, and the

* *Panicum psilopodium*: probably the same as the *kutki* of Lalitpur, though the latter may be only an allied species.

area irrigated does not normally exceed 200 acres. Great advances have, however, been made in this portion of the district in the storage of water, but a comparison of the part played by irrigation in agriculture is impracticable owing to an absence of complete statistics. Actual figures for irrigation in the surveyed portions of the district, however, excluding the Family Domains, are available from 1885 onwards. For the ten years ending in 1897 the average area irrigated was 47,111 acres or 8·38 per cent. of the net cultivation, the maximum being 62·083 acres or 11·11 per cent. in 1895-96, and the minimum 28,085 acres or 4·78 per cent. in the year before. For the succeeding decade from 1898 to 1907, the irrigated area averaged 78,720 acres or 14·19 per cent. of that cultivated. The proportion is a low one; but much of the country is unsuited to the construction of wells and in the tract for which statistics are available the fertile pargana of Bhadohi is not included. If the recent figures available for the Family Domains be incorporated in the district returns, the irrigated area for that portion of the district which lies north of the Kaimurs is found to have averaged 158,658 acres or 19·32 per cent. of the net cultivation during the years between 1903 and 1907. Among the parganas, Ahraura comes first with an average of 41·89 per cent. of its cultivated area irrigated. Next in order are Bhadohi and Majhwa, in both of which the proportion slightly exceeds 36 per cent., while in Kera-Mangraur it is 31·09 per cent. Bhuili follows at a considerable interval with 23·16 per cent.; Barhar and Bijaigarh closely approach the average of the whole tract with about 19 per cent.; and the only other pargana where irrigation is important is Bhagwat with 16·73 per cent. Among the other parganas Chaurasi has the largest irrigated area with 10·85 per cent., and the lowest position is somewhat unexpectedly taken by Kon and Qariat Sikhar, in which only 2·18 and 1·34 per cent. respectively of the cultivated area is watered artificially. The reason for this is that both tracts lie low along the northern bank of the Ganges, and that sufficient moisture is supplied to the crops by capillary attraction. The estimated irrigable area of the surveyed portion of the district excluding the Family Domains is 96,100 acres.

Sources of supply.

Turning to the sources from which irrigation is derived, we find that wells are by far the most important. During the five years ending in 1907, an average of 94,916 acres or 59·82 per cent. of the

irrigated area has been watered from this source; while 31·70 per cent. has been irrigated from other sources and only 8·48 per cent. from tanks. The sources of supply, however, are very different in different portions of the district. In Bhadohi no less than 92·57 per cent. of the area watered is irrigated from wells: in the various parganas of tahsil Mirzapur the average is 83·54 per cent.; while in tahsil Chunar it falls as low as 54·72 per cent. It is in Barhar and Bijaigarh that the well-irrigated area sinks into insignificance, for in these parganas as much as 87·86 per cent. is dependent on "other sources" and nearly 10 per cent. on tanks, the only other parganas in which the area irrigated from other sources approaches that found in Barhar and Bijaigarh being Saktesgarh, where the proportion is 62·89 per cent. If the present figures of irrigation in the surveyed portions of the district are compared with those prevailing at an earlier date it will be found that there has been a remarkable expansion both under the head of area irrigated from wells and of area irrigated from other sources. For, from 1888 to 1897, the well-irrigated area in this portion of the district averaged 25,015 acres annually, whereas between 1898 and 1907, the figure had risen to 33,291 acres. The increase in the area irrigated from other sources has been more marked still, for the rise has been from an average of 15,968 acres in the former to one of 46,015 acres in the latter period. In other sources is included tanks, the area irrigated from these not having been separately recorded with accuracy till 1894. No returns of tank-irrigated area are given for the year 1906-07, but for the nine years from 1898 to 1906, this area averaged 16,367 acres, leaving for the same period 9,177 acres as watered from other sources.

Wells. The pargana of Bhadohi is specially rich in masonry wells, particularly in the portions remote from the Ganges where the permanent water-level is less distant from the surface of the ground. In parganas Ahraura and Bhuili masonry wells are very costly to construct owing to the great depth at which the permanent water supply is found, between Rs. 300 and Rs. 500 frequently being expended. Earthen wells, however, can be cheaply dug at a cost of between six and ten rupees in stiff clay soils, wherever these prevail. Such wells last for about ten years and are sufficient to irrigate a *bigha* of sugarcane or four to eight *bighas* of ordinary

crops. On the Vindhyan plateau, except in Barhar and Bijaigarh, the wells are for the most part shallow catchment pits, which seldom retain water throughout the year. The few that supply a permanent supply of water have been driven to great depths through the solid rock, at enormous expense. The depth at which subsoil water is found beyond the Son differs greatly. In Dudhi the deepest well is some 45 feet, while the shallowest have only a depth of five feet. The cost of constructing a well varies naturally with the depth of water; on masonry wells an outlay of Rs. 700 is entailed on an average, but in some places the figure rises to Rs. 1,000. The cost of an earthen well is of course very small compared with this, but few such are ever sunk, the country being unsuited to them. The average depth of water in Agori is some 60 feet and in Singrauli some 30 feet below the surface of the ground; and in both parganas the cost of contructing a well is proportionately higher than in Dudhi. According to the most recent returns for 1907-08, the number of wells in the entire district available for irrigation is 22,249. Of these in the same year 19,600 were actually used for irrigation. The season of 1907-08 was one of severe drought in the uplands of Mirzapur, so that the irrigating capacities of the district were probably tested to the utmost. A total area of 118,629 acres was recorded as irrigated from wells in that year and this area may be accepted under present conditions as a maximum. The bulk of this area was of course in the Gangetic valley, including the Family Domains.

Other sources.

Tanks and embankments are the most usual means employed for storage and utilization of the rainfall. Only 8·48 per cent. of the irrigated area, however, is watered from tanks, the water being utilized chiefly for the irrigation of rice in Ahraura, Bhagwat, Bhuili, Qariat Sikhar, Upraudh and Chhiyanve. On the Vindhyan plateau and south of the Son water is stored in tanks rather for the consumption of men and beasts than for irrigation, though it is used for the latter purpose. The best examples of tanks are those at Kandia and Gaharwargaon. In these portions of the district extensive use is made of embankments. The water that collects behind these may be either employed directly for irrigation or allowed to

the denudation of the soil; and their importance in securing large areas from drought has long been recognized. In recent years projects for their construction as famine relief works have been carefully prepared under the supervision of the Irrigation department. During the years 1907 and 1908 about 70 such projects were prepared, 17 of which were put in hand in the famine of the latter year. Of this number 14 were completed; they irrigated 637 acres in 1908-09 and are calculated to irrigate a considerably large area when the proper use of water is understood by the people. One other, the largest, estimated to benefit no less than 400 acres of land was finished after the famine by the Kantit estate.

Canals.

There is no area irrigated from canals properly so called in Mirzapur at the present time, but the near future will see some important developments in this respect, schemes for several small canals being under preparation. The largest of these schemes is the Ghaghar-Karamnasa project. The Ghaghar river will be dammed by a weir at Dhandraul, ten miles south-east of Robertsganj, forming a reservoir 7,000 acres in extent. As the flow-off from the catchment area of this stream is insufficient to fill the reservoir, the Karamnasa river will be dammed also at Kirhulia and a cut made from this point to the Ghaghar reservoir to supplement the supply of water. The total storage capacity of the reservoir is estimated at 500,000,000 cubic feet. Irrigation channels will be conducted from this reservoir across parganas Bijaigarh and Barhar and tappa Upraudh as far as Lalganj and Baraundha, consisting of a main canal 25 miles and a branch canal 35 miles long: these will be provided with distributaries and minors having a total length of 173 miles. The culturable area commanded is estimated at 250,000 acres, out of which 40,000 acres in the *kharif* and 20,000 acres in the *rabi* will be annually irrigated. The canal discharge is calculated at approximately 600 cusecs; and the entire scheme is estimated to cost about 25 lakhs, on which a return of six per cent. is expected. A second scheme contemplates the damming of the Garai river below the Vindhyan escarpment near Ahraura. By this means a small reservoir, 1,150 acres in extent and impounding 266,000,000 cubic feet of water will be made, to supply 46 miles of distributary channels. The latter will command some 35,000 of land: 37 miles of the total length will irrigate some 12,000

acres of rice-land in Bhuili pargana, and nine miles of channels will irrigate some 3,000 acres in the Chaubiswa patti of the Family Domains. The canal is reckoned to discharge 200 cusecs of water, and the total cost is estimated to be Rs. 3,70,000. Large profits on the outlay are expected from this canal. A survey is at the present time being made for a canal to take off from the Karamnasa river near Chakia and for channels with a length of 52 miles to irrigate 18,000 acres of rice out of a commanded area of 36,000 acres in the Lahra and Majhli pattis of the Family Domains. The canal will discharge some 260 cusecs of water, and is estimated to cost about five lakhs without storage, or six and a half lakhs if a storage reservoir is required. Details of the scheme have not yet finally been decided. A smaller project contemplates the damming of the Sikrar *nala* by a small earthen dam, four miles south of Halia, to impound 260 million cubic feet of water. A small canal, seven miles in length, will take off from this and run north-westwards towards Baraundha: it will command 6,280 acres, out of which 1,820 acres are expected to be annually irrigated. This scheme is a famine protection work, and will only be undertaken as a relief work. The estimated outlay is two lakhs, on which a return of three per cent. is expected.

The Chandraprabha canal.

Incidental mention has already been made regarding the canal from the Chandraprabha river, which waters part of the Family Domains in tahsil Chakia. The Chandraprabha canal is an old work; it possesses no reservoir, but the water of the river is arrested at Muzzaffarpur by a masonry dam, 20 feet high. This dam is probably an old Chandel erection, but its improvement and the construction of the canals are attributed to Raja Udit Narayan Singh of Benares. Originally two canals were dug, one on the left bank and one on the right bank of the river; but no under sluices were provided for the regulation of the supply, the dam practically only diverting the flood water of the river into the canals. As a result the river bed has silted up to crest level near the dam and the river water in the rains rushes down the old canals, finding its way back to the Chandraprabha from the left bank and to the Karamnasa from the right bank channel. The beds of the canals have been scoured out to a depth of twenty or thirty feet below the surface of the ground, so that embankments have to be made in them to

enable the water to be utilized for irrigation. Normally about 3,300 acres are annually irrigated by the water which finds its way down these canals but the irrigation is irregular and is capable of great development. This will be effected if the Garai and Karamnasa projects, described above, are carried out.

Famines.

Mirzapur has seldom been visited by famines of any great magnitude or intensity, though it has not wholly escaped from the more serious calamities of this nature which have fallen upon the United Provinces and Bengal. Of early famines there are no records extant: local tradition tells of serious suffering in the northern parts of the district during the great *chalisa* of 1783 A.D.; but we have no means of judging of the extent to which this district was affected. For the next 47 years after this, Mirzapur formed a portion of the Province of Benares, and all that is known of the famines belongs rather to the history of Benares. After 1830, the first scarcity of which we read is that of 1864, when the rice crop withered on account of the scanty rainfall, and it was found necessary to suspend a fifth of the revenue demand. The distress does not appear to have been very serious, and some seasons of prosperity which followed soon restored the people to their normal condition.

Famine of 1868.

The first occasion regarding which full information is available is the scarcity of 1868-69. Notwithstanding the advantages of soil, irrigation and communication which the northern portion of the district enjoyed, and in spite of the fact that the heavy rainfall of September 1868 spread more or less over the whole district, there was considerable failure of crops and great distress, especially in the south, where, owing to the wild character of the country, the poverty of the people and the absence of bazars and good roads, actual famine may be said to have existed. Here the rain came too late to save the rice, the staple crop of the tract. In January 1869 it was found necessary to undertake large relief works in Mirzapur tahsil, and to make private arrangements with merchants to supply grain, the points at which the workmen were to be collected being absolutely without food. On January 25th the appearance of distress in the south called for special measures of relief: there was no grain in the hands of the people themselves, even the markets were poorly stocked, and Rs. 5,000 worth of grain had to be purchased by the Government

and despatched to Chopan on bullocks. In June of the same year a further supply was sent to Dudhi, the whole sum laid out on all these purchases amounting to Rs. 7,500. The most important works set on foot for relief purposes were in Mirzapur tahsil, and these supported between January and June a total of 623,306 units, at a cost of Rs. 54,878. The cost was considerably enhanced by the necessity of sending supplies to the gangs of labourers, arrangements for this purpose being made with a contractor. The grain was sold to the workmen at cost price up to May 15th, the carriage being charged to the Government: but after that date it was sold at 13 *sers* per rupee, or one *ser* below the market rate, and the Government bore the loss. Operations in the Mirzapur tahsil did not altogether cease with the end of June, however, for about the middle of July the collector found it necessary to reopen relief works. These were continued until August 4th, by which time heavy rain had fallen and the number of labourers greatly diminished. Besides the works undertaken in the Mirzapur tahsil, road and tank construction was in progress during the year in the south of the district. But the numbers employed on these are not included in the total given above, and the cost of supporting them also appears to have been met from local funds. The total expenditure on relief is stated to have been Rs. 1,10,247, of which only Rs. 64,400 were charged direct to the Government. The hill people north of the Son river preferred to support life as best they could in the jungles, and refused to come to the relief works in the plains. There was no organized system of poor-house relief, but the sick and aged received shelter and rations wherever works were in progress. A daily average of 128 persons of this description was supported between April 25th and September 25th, 1869, at a cost of Rs. 834. The central committee of the charitable relief fund contributed Rs. 800 for this purpose.

Famine of 1873-74.

Scarcity was again felt in 1873-74, though not to the same extent as in 1868. It was the culmination of a series of disasters that befel the crops in 1872 and 1873. The *rabi* in the spring of 1872 was much below the average; the yield of the *kharif* in the same year, in the Ganges valley and uplands to the south, nowhere exceeded an eight-anna crop, and was in some parts less. The

rabi of 1873 owing to a shortage of rain was, except in the immediate neighbourhood of irrigation wells, also a failure. It is estimated that nearly 44,000 cattle perished in the hot weather for want of fodder and water. Great distress prevailed in the south, and relief works had to be opened in Barhar and Dudhi. Ill-fitted as it was to bear another bad season, the district was visited once more by calamity in the following *kharif*; for the rains of 1873 began late in July and, though they did not end till the middle of September, the fall was very uneven and most of the precipitation took place in July. Consequently the crops, especially *kodon* and rice, were greatly injured; and in the south of the district the yield was reckoned to be little in excess of one-fourth of a normal harvest. Actual famine, however, was confined to the hill country. Relief works were opened as early as November, on the part of the Government in Upraudh and Dudhi, by the Kantit estate in Saktesgarh, and by the Barhar estate in Agori and Kon. A fall again at the end of January 1874 produced an unexpectedly favourable outturn of the *rabi*, and relief works were closed in Barhar and Agori as soon as the crops had ripened; but elsewhere it was found necessary to keep them open until June. *Takavi* advances to the sum of Rs. 21,000 were freely given for the purchase of seed, grain and cattle; and grain was collected and stored at Dudhi, Kon and Robertsganj. Altogether some 284,000 persons, or a daily average of 1,400 souls, were supported at a cost of about Rs. 27,000. The expense was somewhat enhanced by the necessity of having to open a large number of small works in south Mirzapur; and was borne in almost equal shares by the Government and Court of Wards Estates.

Famine of 1877-78.

The famine of 1877-78 was not felt in Mirzapur to any great extent; and the district was the only one in the division which passed through the year without any extensive charitable relief. Though prices were high there was no lack of food for the people, and the want of fodder for the cattle was not felt. It was not till June 1878 that the people of any portion of the district began to show signs of distress, and a relief work was opened in one of the Dudhi villages for three days in that month. It employed 281 labourers; but both it and another started on the Mariahan road were almost immediately closed, as timely showers

of rain during the first week of July enabled cultivation to be undertaken, and this furnished sufficient employment for the labouring population. The *kharif* harvest of 1878 turned out well, and the district passed through the famine practically unscathed.

Famine of 1896-97.

The next famine, that of 1896-97, affected Mirzapur as severely as most other districts of the province, except Banda. The monsoon of 1895 had been below normal, though there was not any distress; and that of 1896, after beginning well, terminated soon after the middle of September. The early *kharif* crop in the Ganges valley was a fair one, but in the upland tracts it was poor; and owing to the premature cessation of the rains, the late *kharif* was an entire failure, while ploughing for the *rabi* except on irrigated land became impossible. An average fall of over one inch of rain in November raised hopes that the worst effects of scarcity might be averted; but it proved insufficient to do more than mitigate the impending calamity, and before December closed relief works had to be opened in the district and poor-houses in the city. By January 1897 both large works under the control of the Public Works department and village relief works were general throughout the district, while other poor-houses had to be started at Chunar, Robertsganj and Lalganj. Tahsil Robertsganj, the uplands of Chunar and Mirzapur and taluqa Naugarh in the Family Domains were the portions of the district in which the visitation of the famine was severest; and next to them came tappa Chhiyanve and pargana Kera-Mangraur. The southern portions of the Ganges valley east of Mirzapur were but slightly affected by the scarcity, and the parganas north of the river practically wholly escaped it. The first relief work under the control of the Public Works department opened was that on the Halia-Lalganj road. The numbers seeking relief rapidly increased on this, other works had to be started and during March there was a daily attendance of over 30,000 people on eleven works. On the first of June the number of persons relieved was 37,915, the highest total reached. In the country south of the Son river works were carried out by civil agency, and those in receipt of relief on them or being gratuitously relieved in their own homes or in poor-houses amounted at the end of May to

23,300 persons. In addition to this, the Maharaja of Benares opened relief works in his own domains in January, and by the end of May was relieving 13,736 persons. Large works under the control of the Public Works department were finally closed on the 31st August 1897, after 4,262,347 units had been relieved and an expenditure of Rs. 3,30,333 had been incurred. Civil officers incurred a further expenditure of Rs. 238,813, and the Maharaja of Benares is calculated to have disbursed a sum of approximately Rs. 1,75,000. His services in the cause of famine relief were acknowledged by the grant of the distinction of the G.C.S.I. Village relief did not come to an end till the middle of October 1897, and the Mirzapur poor-house was not finally closed until October 19th. As indirect measures of relief, Rs. 32,872 were advanced in loans to cultivators for the construction of wells, purchase of seed-grain, and for subsistence *takavi*; and to this must be added a sum of Rs. 12,000 distributed for similar purposes in the Dudhi estate.

Famine of 1907-08. The severest famine that has ever affected the district of Mirzapur was that of 1907-08. The monsoon of 1907 broke at the normal time towards the end of June. The total fall was actually a little in excess of the normal, but no rain fell in September or October, and it soon became apparent that the rice crop, the staple crop of the uplands of the district, would be a failure. As in 1897, the Ganges valley escaped the famine, and, with the exception of some gratuitous relief in the towns of Mirzapur, Chunar and Ahraura, there was no need of relief operations in that area. On the Vindhyan plateau and south of the Son famine was very severe and the disastrous failure of the autumn crops could not be remedied in the spring as irrigation is practically non-existent and temporary wells cannot be dug. Relief works under the control of the Public Works department were confined to the region between the Ganges valley and the hills: the rest of the district was dealt with entirely by civil agency. Relief works commenced in December and by the 28th of March there were 12 public works in operation: gratuitous relief was also being given throughout the famine area and in the large towns, the total number on relief of all kinds during March averaging 125,000 persons. Early in the hot weather the district

was visited by a severe attack of cholera; but the works practically escaped the epidemic; for the large public works were at once broken up into smaller departmental works, the number of civil and aided village works was extended, dependants were removed to the gratuitous relief lists, and elaborate sanitary precautions were immediately taken. By the end of May there were 50 civil, 20 small departmental, and 25 aided works in operation. The first rain fell early in July, and large advances, aggregating over five and a half lakhs, were poured into the affected parts. The numbers on the works which had been over 65,000 at the end of June had fallen to 6,000 by the 1st August: the gratuitous relief circles were at the same time nearly doubled in number, and the total gratuitously relieved exceeded 70,000 on the same date. As the early autumn crops became ripe gratuitous relief was closed on August 26th with a month's final dole. Four poor-houses remained open throughout the famine and a special famine orphanage was constructed at Dudhi. For purposes of famine organization pargana Singrauli was, with pargana Dudhi, placed under the control of the manager of the Dudhi Government estate; and five military officers were deputed to the district for famine duty. The organization of communications with the more remote areas was, as usual, one of the most difficult of the problems which had to be solved, especially in the rains, when the Son and the rivers beyond it are both difficult and dangerous to cross. A special mule-cart service was organized, boats were placed on all the rivers to facilitate crossing, and an *ekka* service was run to Robertsganj. The carriage of grain was stimulated as far as possible by cash advances to small grain dealers and the owners of pack-bullocks; but in the rains the cost of carriage, which has to be entirely effected on pack-bullocks, rose to Re. 1-8-0 per maund from Ahraura station to Robertsganj and as much as Rs. 3 per maund from Robertsganj on to Singrauli, with the result that in July wheat flour was selling at 2 *sers* to the rupee, *mahua* at six *sers*, and barley at 5 *sers*, when obtainable. It was only by the indefatigable efforts of the district staff and by a most liberal allowance of gratuitous relief that the situation in this part of the district was prevented from becoming critical. As indirect measures of relief, a sum of Rs. 2,18,180

of land revenue was suspended, and one of Rs. 7,98,860 advanced in loans for seed, cattle, petty improvements and wells. The total expenditure incurred by the Public Works department amounted to Rs. 6,86,068 and that incurred by the civil authorities to the large sum of Rs. 17,92,593.

The Family Domains of the Maharaja of Benares in the Mirzapur district were treated throughout as a separate famine subdivision, and relief was administered at the cost of the Government under the control of the deputy superintendent of the Domains. Only the pargana of Kera-Mangraur was affected by the famine, and it suffered to the same extent as southern Mirzapur. The extensive and hilly areas of taluqa Naugarh, which is devoid of adequate means of communication, presented similar difficulties to those of the rest of the district situated on the Vindhyan plateau; and at one time over 14,000 persons were being relieved on works and 5,000 were receiving gratuitous relief at their homes out of a total population of 66,000. The general system of relief did not differ from that adopted elsewhere, and the expenditure incurred is included in that of the district.

No separate records are extant to show the prices of food stuffs in Mirzapur prior to the Mutiny. But in those days the city was an important emporium of trade, situated on the main artery of traffic, and it may be assumed that the rates were practically identical with those of Benares. In 1857, wheat was selling at Mirzapur at 19 *sers* for the rupee, gram at 24 *sers*, *juar* at 28 *sers*, and Patna rice at 18 *sers*. Prices fell somewhat soon after, but in 1865 an important rise took place, as elsewhere in the province, which continued for period of over 20 years and only ended in 1888. For the twenty years from 1869 to 1888 the average rates for the chief food grains were 14·50 *sers* for a rupee in the case of rice, 16·07 *sers* in the case of wheat, 19·61 *sers* in that of gram and 22·81 in the case of *juar*. On the whole, however, it may be said that prices were somewhat easier in the latter than in the first ten years of the period, for, although there was little change in the rates of rice and wheat, that of gram fell from 17·90 *sers* per rupee to 21·33 *sers* and that of *juar* from 21·55 to 24·08 *sers* per rupee. About 1888 prices rose to a marked extent throughout northern India, the phenomenon being ascribed to Prices.

widespread economic causes such as the depreciation of silver and the growth of export trade, stimulated by the rapid improvement in the means of communication. The rise was a sudden one at the beginning, but it has been progressive and has continued with several occasional fluctuations to the present day. From 1889 to 1898 the price of common rice averaged 11·80 *sers* to the rupee, of wheat 12·22 *sers*, of barley 17·72 *sers*, of gram 16·79 *sers* and of *juar* 16·76 *sers*, those being the articles most commonly produced and consumed in the district. The decade was remarkable for the famine of 1897, which had a great effect on local prices, and consequently the average is somewhat vitiated. The upward tendency however appears to have been to some extent checked by the succeeding years of prosperity. Prices were abnormally high again in 1900, though Mirzapur was little affected by the scarcity of that year; but, in spite of this scarcity and that of 1907, the average rates of the principal food stuffs between 1899 and 1907 have, except in the case of rice, somewhat fallen. During this period the average price of gram has been 17·14 *sers* per rupee, of *juar* 18·16 *sers*, of barley 17·25 *sers* and of wheat 12·75 *sers* for a rupee, while that of rice has risen to 10·75 *sers* From 1861 to 1865, before the rise in prices set in, wheat was selling at an average rate of 21 *sers* for the rupee, rice of 17 *sers*, barley of 31·50 *sers*, gram of 29·57 *sers* and *juar* of 26 *sers*. If these prices are compared with those available for the latest period, the rise in the market value of the main food stuffs is at once apparent; taken all round it amounts to nearly 40 per cent. All these prices are those ruling in the Mirzapur market. Elsewhere in the district prices are affected by the inadequacy of the means of transport, and in the Sonpar tract the range is affected by local conditions in a way that renders quotations useless for purposes of comparison.

Wages. Wherever cash wages are paid, there has been in almost every case a considerable rise in the scale of remuneration given: and the change is as a rule more marked in the case of skilled than in that of unskilled labour. The large and important class of boatmen on the river who from the time of the Mutiny until 1880 received only three to four annas a day, were paid seven annas in 1890 and now usually obtain eight annas a day. A similar rise is observable in

the wages of stone cutters, a form of labour which also receives high remuneration. Blacksmiths, workers in brass and copper, wood smoothers and sawyers are now paid at a rate of six annas a day, compared with rates of three or four annas a day in 1880 and two to three annas at the Mutiny. The wages of carpenters, carpet weavers, sugar cleaners, and tailors appear to have little changed. On the other hand, common day labourers, whose remuneration was but one anna a day at the Mutiny, now receive two or two and a half annas, women and children, when they are employed in such work, receiving proportionately less.

The remuneration of agricultural labourers is generally of a different description and is affected by different considerations. Except where the cultivating castes, such as Kurmis, prevail, the field work is all done by labourers of low caste, such as Kols, Pasis and Chamars, who are regarded by the Brahman and Rajput tenant farmers as serfs. The usual pay of an adult male labourer of this description is two *sers* of grain per diem when employed; when not employed, an advance is given to him to be deducted from subsequent payments. The standard grain is barley; but if an inferior grain, such as *kodon* or *kesari*, is given the allowance is usually a *ser* more. The regular labourer gets in addition one rupee annually, called his *buda*, a coarse blanket worth perhaps eight or twelve annas, and sometimes a pair of shoes. The ploughman also gets a trifling amount of grain from each field; and women and children employed to weed get one *ser* of grain a day each. There are very seldom any cash payments beyond the annual rupee, whatever is needed in the way of clothes, tobacco, salt and so forth being obtained from the Bania by barter of a portion of the grain wages. The foregoing scale is that current in the thickly peopled Gangetic valley; further south, where the supply of labour is not equal to the demand, the labourer is better off and more independent. The remuneration, for example, in Barhar takes the form sometimes of two and a half village maunds of *kodon* at the beginning of *Asarh*, with a rupee, a blanket, and an umbrella hat; a percentage of the produce of the fields ploughed; two village *bighas* of arable land, with a patch of garden round about the house; and a daily

wage, when actually working, of four village *sers* of grain. In addition presents are expected at the sowing, reaping and garnering of the crops. At the time of the cane harvest wages run often much higher for a time in consequence of the competition for labourers which then exists.

Weights and measures.

The weights and measures in use in this district present several peculiarities. The Government standards are, it is true, very frequently employed; but the people are somewhat conservative and often prefer to cling to their traditional units while giving the value in Government *sers* or *tolas*. A common weight in use is the *dhara*, which is equivalent to four *sers* of 80 *tolas* each. A fixed quantity of goods, which weighs a different number of *dharas* according to the articles sold, is usually termed a *lagauri*. Thus a *lagauri* of refined sugar contains 34¼ *dharas*; of unrefined sugar, 33¼; of salt and turmeric, 33; of betel nut, 30; and of lime, 32. Iron merchants reckon by the *khant*, which should be equal to 3 maunds 24 *sers* of the Government standard. The bazar knows two kinds of *man*, one of 48 Government *sers* used in weighing fire wood, metals, spices, dried fruits and the like; and other of 40 *sers*, which is usually the measure of sugar and grain. Dealers in oil seeds commonly employ a *ser*, known as the *anjai ser*, which is equivalent to a weight of 82 rupees and 10 annas in silver. In the interior of the district, and especially at the bazars of Shahganj, Gopiganj and Ahraura, a *ser* of 96 *tolas* is often met with, and in the extreme south a *kachcha ser* is much used which is only half the Government standard. A common measure of capacity in the uplands has as its unit a *karua*, which is a quarter of a *ser* of 96 *tolas* and so equivalent to 24 *tolas*. Four *karuas* make one *paila*; four *pailas*, one *kurai* or *dhara*; and 20 *kurais*, one *khandi*. The *khandi* therefore is equal to 20 *dharas*, and so to 80 *sers* or two *mans*. In some villages, when grain is sold, a *man* of only 16 *sers* is employed; and the *passeri*, which should be five *sers* or the eighth of a *man* of 40 *sers*, becomes equivalent to only two *sers*. A liquid measure used by oil sellers is known as *katya*: it is made of brass and contains 10½ Government *sers*. Half a *katia* is spoken of as *adhia*, and a quarter is called *chauthia*. The commonest measure of length is the *hath* or cubit, which is roughly equivalent to 18 inches. Two *haths* therefore make a

yard; but the *gaz* employed by masons is usually one of 25½ inches only. The survey or *pakka bigha* has an area of 3,025 square yards, but the village *bigha* is very variable. It is generally either one-quarter or four-twenty-fifths of the Government or, as it is called, *paimaishi bigha*. A standard *latha* is 8 feet 3 inches long; but the village measuring rod of the same name is 3½ *haths*.

The prevailing rates of interest in the northern portions of the district call for no detailed comment, being much the same as in other portions of the Benares division. The rates vary not only according to the kind of loan but also according to the circumstances attending the transaction. Native bills of exchange usually bear interest at from 9 to 12 per cent., but petty loans are only obtainable on much harder terms. Six to twelve per cent. is charged when the loan is secured by the mortgage of landed property; and six to nine per cent. when ornaments are deposited as pledge: if no security is offered, 18 to 36 per cent. must be paid. Instalment bonds, a very common form of security, bear from 30 to 36 per cent. interest. At the time when the payment of rent falls due, the terms on which money can be obtained by tenants usually become more severe and a loan is seldom procurable at less than 24 per cent., while the borrower has to pay in addition one anna in the rupee as *karua* or premium. In grain transactions the custom of *sawai* is prevalent, the borrower receiving, for example, a maund of grain at sowing time and contracting to repay a maund and a quarter at harvest. If the borrower fails to pay the debt is either turned into money at the highest rate of the year or the amount advanced, together with the *sawai* or one quarter due as interest, stands as capital to be paid back with fresh interest next season. In the tract of country south of the Son, the rates for lending money are as a rule more extortionate than in the north of the district. Here the Kalwars and Banias, who monopolise the money lending of the tract, have a far more ignorant and unsophisticated population to deal with. Mr. Crooke wrote in 1892, "their rates for lending money are never less than 24 per cent. when the security is unencumbered. I have heard of cases where the security was worse and the rate as high as 72 per cent. Besides this, they always deduct, to begin with, from 10 to 20 per cent. as *nazarana*. The money-lenders take accounts every six months, and the interest is

Interest.

added to the capital debt, compound interest being charged. When the mahajans lend on the security of cattle, the rates are never less than those stated above, and in addition they make it part of the contract that they are to get all the debtor's *ghi* at half the market rates. There again accounts are taken and compound interest charged every six months. Grain advances are given at *deorha*, or 50 per cent. payable at the ensuing harvest; any arrears are charged 50 per cent. again till next harvest." The measures undertaken to combat the influence of these grain dealers in Dudhi were the liberal distribution of *takavi* loans from the Government at easy rates of interest and these have had the effect of reducing the rates of interest charged in the valley to the normal *sawai* standard.

Banks.

In early days, when Mirzapur was a great commercial centre, many wealthy men and bankers, with correspondents in other parts of India, resided in the city. When it ceased to be a great emporium, their wealth likewise decreased, and at the present day there are but few native banking firms. The chief of those that exist are the firms of Jumna Das and Sewa Ram, Mannu Lal of *muhalla* Bundelkhandi. Their transactions for the most part extend only to the financing of current business in the city. There are no European banking firms nor branches in Mirzapur; but an institution called the Indian National Bank has recently opened premises in *muhalla* Bariaghat; its business is not yet fully developed. So far, too, no agricultural banks or co-operative credit societies have been started in the district.

Manufactures.

The account of Mirzapur industries has to some extent been anticipated by the description given in the previous chapter of sericulture and the manufacture of iron and catechu; but besides these there are several industries of more than local celebrity.

Tasar silk,

There was formerly a certain amount of *tasar*-silk weaving carried on at Ahraura, but now little except the spinning of thread from the cocoons is carried on. At the census of 1901, there were 187 persons enumerated as silk weavers or spinners by profession; and as their method of dealing with the cocoons differs from that in vogue elsewhere, a description of the treatment is of interest. About two *sers* of *reh* (saline efflorescence) or *sajji* (carbonate of soda) are dissolved with four *sers* of cold water in an earthen pot; this vessel has a hole at the bottom which is stopped up with

a piece of twisted cloth, loosely put in. Underneath is placed another pot, into which the solution trickles down. A pound of this solution is mixed with 10 *sers* of water, and about 300 cocoons are put into it and boiled for six hours, a flat stone being placed over the cocoons to prevent them floating to the surface. This process both kills the insect within the cocoons and at the same time dissolves the mucilage in which the fibres of the *tasar* are embedded. The cocoons are now fit for reeling, and the reeler in Mirzapur is always a woman. She sits on the ground with a stone bowl about seven inches in diameter and three in depth to her left. The bow is filled with ashes in which four or eight cocoons are embedded, the ashes being kept damp with water. The cocoons are first washed and the outer covering of inferior silk is removed. Next one filament is taken out from each and rolled together between the left hand and thigh, and the combined thread is carried on a *paratia* or *paraita.* This is a wooden framework, consisting of a central stick about 20 inches long, to which are attached two cross sticks, one at the top about three and a half inches long and the other at the bottom, six inches long. The ends of these cross sticks are joined by means of side sticks, on which the thread is reeled by revolving the axial stick. The thread so produced is simply called *tasar* thread, and from it is prepared the *dongari tasar* which is twisted and doubled. A length of 10 yards, 39 times round, is considered the standard length of the skein, and 101 skeins form a complete *tana.* Each *tana* is 39,390 yards in length and sells for about Rs. 12. The reeler receives in wages one anna for a hundred cocoons, and the *tanawala* five annas for a complete *tana.* The thread is now chiefly exported to Benares, where it is made up into cloth.

Pottery.

At the census of 1901 there where 4,861 persons enumerated in the district as sellers of pottery ware. The majority of these live in Chunar, which has a reputation for a species of pottery distinct from any other kind produced in these provinces. The chief articles manufactured are *surahis* or long-necked jars of various shapes, used especially in the hot weather for holding drinking water. They are made from two special clays called *nakti* and *khasi*, and when unglazed are of a dark-brown colour,

this tinge being produced by mixing up a powdered red stone with the clay paste. Both vitreous and metallic glazes are applied, but red metallic glaze is peculiar to the potters of Chunar and Fyzabad. The basis of this is yellow glaze which is made up as follows :—Lead and zinc in the proportion of one to eight are put in an earthen pot, which is set over a clay hearth and plastered round with mud. They are melted together for two days, and the white scum containing the oxide of the two metals combined, which is called *phul*, is continually skimmed off with a large, flat ladle called *karchul* or *karcha :* one eighth part of borax and one eighth part of powdered red stone are then added and the compound is again melted for about seven hours. At the end of this time the molten mass is poured slowly into a wooden trough full of water and coagulates at the bottom of the trough in separate pieces, which are at once taken out and ground to powder in a common stone hand-mill. This powder is mixed with very thin wheat flour paste ; and, in order to produce metallic glaze, quicksilver is added to it. The ornamentation and shape of the Chunar ware is purely English and generally classic in character. It consists mainly of raised leaf and flower patterns made in moulds, the manufacture of which has been hereditary among certain families of Kahars for many generations : a basket pattern is also made by the same Kahars in moulds which they buy from cane-weaving Khatiks. The art of glazing was only introduced about 35 years ago by one Bacha, Kahar, who had learnt it at Bombay ; but it is not applied as a rule to delicate ornamentation. A small export trade is done in Chunar pottery.

Brass-ware.

The trade in brass metal ware is perhaps the most healthy industry that Mirzapur possesses. The city is the great centre of manufacture for Hindu domestic utensils, and the Thatheri bazar is full of shops piled high with row on row of *lotas, batuas* and *thalis*. Mirzapur enjoys a special advantage in the proximity of large quantities of a peculiar earth, especially suited for the manufacture of moulds, and the industry has been stimulated by the railway which has facilitated the import of raw material. At the census of 1901 the district contained 1,618 brass, copper and bell-metal workers, a larger number than in any other district of the province ; and the bulk of these are of the Kasera and

Thathera castes. As many as sixteen classes of artificers are detailed as engaged in the manufacture, but these may be broadly divided into three, those of mould-makers, brass-founders and finishers. The best earth for moulds is a yellow sandy clay, known as *piari matti;* but only the outer shell or *palla* is made of this, the core or *gatha* being of ordinary clay. The making and fitting of these moulds is a separate industry, involving a considerable degree of nicety and skill; and is carried on by a special class called Sanchias.* The current price of these moulds is between Re. 1-8-0 and Rs. 3 per 100, according to size. The metals used in the manufacture of brass vessels are that called *phul*, composed of four parts copper and one part pewter; *kansa*, which is a mixture of copper and zinc in approximately equal proportion; *ledha phul*, which is composed of 16 parts copper, four parts pewter, and one part lead; *chilui phul* which differs from *kansa* only in the addition of a little lead; a d ordinary brass, *pital*, which is composed of 15 parts of copper and 12 parts of zinc. The metal, whatever its composition, is melted in a crucible (*ghariya*) of *kuraili* or stiff clay earth tempered with chaff: the lid of the crucible is called a *muhalla*. The melting furnace is called *masurhi*, and is usually large enough to hold six crucibles, each containing about 30 *sers* of metal; and between three and six maunds of fuel are expended in heating one charge. The moulds are first heated in an oven, and the *dharaiya* or caster, the most skilled among the workmen employed, judging the right moment, withdraws them from the fire and fills them with moulten metal. In small castings a simpler method is usually employed. In this the mould is inverted over a crucible and luted to it. The crucible and mould are then heated together in a charcoal and cow-dung fire, made in a hole in the ground; and, when a sufficient temperature has been obtained, the arrangement is turned over, and the moulten metal flows into and fills the mould. However made, the rough castings pass int the hands of the *partaraiya*, who fills up the holes left by the studs which supported the core of the mould; and then through the hands of several other artificers, who trim, file and polish the vessels on a lathe. In addition to vessels which are cast, many,

* For a detailed description of the process, *vide A Monograph on Brass and Copper ware* by G. R. Dampier, I.C.S., 1894.

especially those of *phul*, are entirely made by hammering, and some of these are ornamented with rude *repoussé* work. To facilitate the melting of *kansa*, a little borax is used; the other compounds require none.

Shellac. Shellac manufacture was introduced early in the nineteenth century by Dr. Turnbull, a surgeon in the service of the East India Company: his name still survives in the riverside bazar of Turnbullganj, near Chunar. The beginnings of the industry were aided by the convenient situation of the city of Mirzapur on the Ganges, then the main artery of traffic, and the reputation of the original factory, which is now owned by Jardine, Skinner & Co., has enabled it to hold its ground in the face of subsequent rivals. Besides the establishments of this firm at Narghat and Bariaghat, which give employment to an average of 331 persons daily, Messrs. Schoene, Kilburn & Co. have a large factory employing 513 persons daily at Rukhaghat, Mr. C. J. Lucas' factory employs 180 persons, and there are some eighty native houses, large and small, which carry on the manufacture, the chief being the firms known as Shiucharan Ram, Sahai Ram, employing 231 persons; Mahadeo Prasad, Kalka Prasad, 105 persons; Gharib Ram, Chhedi Lal, 100 persons; Budhu Ram, Bhagwan Das, 88 persons; and Kolai Ram, Mahadeo Ram, 80 persons. According to the returns of the census of 1901, there were 2,830 actual workers employed in or connected with lac factories, for most part living in the city of Mirzapur; and there is a large number of people who earn a livelihood by collecting lac and bringing it to market. Stick lac is found upon the *kusum*, *palas*, *ber*, *pipal*, *bargad*, *gular*, *pakar* and many other trees; but the best is obtained from the *kusum*. This is a golden resin, known in the trade as *nagali*, and from it the most valuable orange shellac is made. The next best comes from the *palas* and is known as *baisakhi* or *katki*, according to the month, *Baisakh* or *Kartik*, in which it is gathered. It is darker in colour than the *nagali*, and the shellac is in consequence less clear and bright. These are practically the only varieties used by the European firms: the native factories, most of which turn out an inferior article, utilize the product of almost any tree on which the lac insect is found. The best *nagali* comes from Sambalpur and Raipur, in

the Central Provinces, and from the neighbourhood of Hazaribagh and Palamau in Bengal. The two latter places also produce the best *baisakhi* and *katki*, but these varieties are to be found in many parts of the country. The process of preparing the stick lac of commerce for exportation is simple ; it consists merely in separting the lac from the stick, and dividing it into its component parts of colouring matter and resin. The stick lac is first roughly ground up, and the stick, which consists of the twigs on which the lac is formed, sifted out. The residue is mixed with water, which absorbs the colouring matter ; and this fluid is run into vats, where the dye precipitates itself. The water is then drained off, and the dye is put in presses and made into cakes: in this form, when dry, it is exported. After the dye has been absorbed by the water, the residue, which is called seed lac, is cleaned by sifting and filled into cylindrical bags of cotton cloth. These are turned in front of charcoal furnaces until the lac melts, and the lac is then strained or forced through the pores of the cloth by twisting the bags. It is next stretched over smooth cylinders to the requisite amount of thickness ; and, after being packed in boxes or bags is exported as shellac. Ordinary shellac manufactured by native firms is known as T. N. That made by Mahadeo Prasad, Kashi Prasad is known as "The Lion Brand" ; and the firm of Chedi Lal adopts the mark B. The superior brands of Jardine, Skinner & Co., and Kilburn & Co., are marked D. C., ⇕ V. S O., and R. G.

Carpet-weaving.

It is difficult to say exactly when the industry of carpet-weaving was established in Mirzapur. Carpets were made in Jaunpur and Allahabad during the time of Akbar, and it is possible that weavers from these places migrated to Mirzapur. There is no doubt, however, that the industry has been in existence for more than a hundred years. There is a general tradition that the manufacture of carpets first started in the village of Ghosia and then spread to the adjacent village of Madho Singh ; and these places are still the chief centres of the industry in the rural tracts. Both these villages lie on the grand trunk road and are passed by pilgrims on their way to Benares, Allahabad or Bindhachal. It is possible therefore that the manufacture was in early days stimulated by the demand for cheap carpets and prayer mats on the part of these pilgrims ; and the district had further the advantage of

producing wool. At any rate the industry appears to have started in the rural tracts, and it has maintained a rural and popular character ever since. It is carried on at the present time in about a hundred villages, most of which lie north of the Ganges river; and its rural character is further obvious from the fact that over 3,000 weavers are settled in villages while only about 400 work in Mirzapur. It is also remarkable that twenty-three castes of Hindus and eighteen castes among Muhammadans are engaged in it. Even Brahmans and Rajputs are found among the former, while the lowest castes, such as Chamars and Pasis, are excluded. Amongst the Muhammadans, Kalinbafs and Julahas form the majority of the workers, the former being of the oldest standing. In both classes a large proportion of the weavers are boys; and they generally become apprentices at the age of nine or ten years, the period of apprenticeship lasting for about two years. There are about 1,400 looms in the district and the owners are generally hereditary weavers or else people who began life as weavers and have saved enough money to put up a loom on their own account. Many of the older loom-owners are now well-off and able to ply their trade without recourse to the money-lender. The best designs now in use are copies of old oriental carpets which have been sketched and painted for Messrs. E. Hill & Co. by their London agents from originals in different musems, but nearly ninety-eight per cent. of the total production is exported to England, and therefore the designs most favoured are such as are required in European households. The industry has made rapid strides since Hill & Co. developed the export trade and now weavers experience a difficulty in obtaining the requisite labour to work their looms; for wages have risen and loom workers are becoming loom-owners. The business of supplying the foreign markets has largely passed into the hands of European firms, who take more care that their goods satisfy the requirements of the purchasers than the Indian firms. The quality of the Mirzapur carpets is, generally speaking, somewhat inferior, the district never having been noted for those of a superior texture. The best kind produced contains about 100 knots to the square inch, and prices vary from Rs. 3 to Rs. 12 per square yard. At the present time Messrs. Hill & Co., carry on work in Mirzapur city and district employing on an

average some 2,500 hands; and in Bhadohi Messrs. Tellery & Co. employ some 600 persons. The principal native firms are Sheikh Abdul Karim, Sheikh Rahmat-ullah and Beni Prasad but their establishment as well as their output is very much smaller than that of the European firms.

The other industries of Mirzapur that deserve mention are the manufacture of iron vessels at Kachhwa and Mirzapur; of lacquered toys, commonly known as "Benares toys," at Ahraura; of indigo in tappa Kon; and of sugar in Bhadohi. Iron vessels are exported from Mirzapur in increasing quantities. Thirty years ago there were two European indigo concerns, one at Khamaria in pargana Bhadohi which drew part of its supply of raw material from the Allahabad district, and the other at Kachhwa in taluqa Majhwa. These turned out between them some eight hundred maunds of indigo annually; and there were several native firms, though none of note. At the present time all the factories are closed while the area sown with the plant during the years 1903 to 1907 averaged only 383 acres for the surveyed portion of the district, 370 acres of the whole being in pargana Bhadohi. Sugar is grown in all the surveyed parganas and tappas, but most extensively in those which lie in the Gangetic valley, the average area for the same five years being 17,187 acres, 6,490 acres alone being accounted for by pargana Bhadohi and 1,804 acres more by Kera-Mangraur. There is one sugar refinery worked according to European methods; but the production of the various forms of country sugar is a flourishing industry at Nai bazar and other places in Bhadohi. The methods do not differ from those in vogue in other districts of the Benares division, and the greater part of the produce of the cane is exported in the form of *gur*. Palm sugar is manufactured to a limited extent from the *khajur* palm, which is fairly abundant round Chunar. A good tree will produce a *chhatank* of *gur* every third or fourth day, and this *gur* fetches about three times the price of the corresponding produce of the cane. Besides these industries there is one cotton spinning mill in Mirzapur city, which is owned by the Sri Gangaji Cotton Mills Company and employs a daily average of 560 hands. Other industries.

The importance of Mirzapur as an entrepôt of inland trade is now a thing of the past. The zenith of its prosperity was Trade.

reached about 1840, when, from its position at the head of the steam navigation of the Ganges, the city attracted a very large share of the cotton trade from the south. In 1847 the annual value of the transit trade in this article alone was stated at nearly a million and a quarter sterling; and the traders of Mirzapur had their agents scattered all over Bundelkhand, then the main cotton-producing portion of the province. The boats that in those days plied over the Jumna returned to Rajapur, Kalpi, Agra, and other marts in Upper India, freighted with sugar, rice and cloth in exchange for the cotton and gram which they had brought down. The development of the railway system has entirely revolutionized the carrying trade of the country. The steam traffic on the river has entirely ceased, and that by native boats is, with the single exception of stone, confined almost exclusively to local, as distinguished from through, traffic. The cheapness of freight, as compared with the railway, is more than counterbalanced by the long duration of the voyage, the uncertainty of the date of its completion, and the risk which the difficulties of navigation in the upper portion of the river involve. The chief exports from Mirzapur now are stone, iron vessels, shellac, brass utensils and carpets, all articles which are produced in the district itself; to these may be added varying quantities of grain, *ghi* and oil seeds. In return are received salt, sugar, wheat, stick lac, wool, metal and cloth. No returns of internal trade are now registered, but between 1877 and 1879 registration was carried on at Robertsganj on the direct road to the south, at Drummondganj on the Deccan road, and at Chakia on the principal route to Shahabad. Little traffic was found to follow the last named route, and the average value of the goods imported by the two former did not amount to more than four lakhs of rupees, the principal articles being food grains and oil seeds. The traffic along the Deccan road consists for the most part of firewood, which is brought into Mirzapur on carts; but that along the other roads leading to the south is almost entirely a pack-bullock trade. The main trade route for the Sonpar tract is the Ahraura-Chopan road, and the chief articles transported over it on the backs of animals are sugar, tobacco, metal utensils, spices, salt, food grains, blankets and cloth. From Sonpar the traders return laden with large quantities of *ghi*, *dhup* (the fragrant gum of the

sal tree), *til*, stick lac which is manufactured at Mirzapur into shellac, iron, hides and horns. There is also a steady export of small timber, in the shape of *ballis*, and other jungle products.

A list of all the markets in the district will be found in the appendix. They are not numerous and the majority are purely local in character and merely serve to supply the scanty needs of the neighbouring population. Apart from the towns of Mirzapur and Chunar, the most important bazar in the district is Ahraura, to which nearly all the produce of the south of the district used to be conveyed. But owing to the opening of the Daltonganj extension of the East Indian Railway and the construction of a cart road into Dudhi, the bulk of the traffic from Dudhi, Singrauli aod native states now passes through Murli Semar in the Dudhi estate to Garwa in the Palamau district. North of the Ganges, Korh, Gopiganj and Kachhwa are centres of some note, while on the Vindhyan plateau the most important places are Halia, Ghorawal, and Robertsganj. To this list may be added Shahganj and Ramgarh, though these are less frequented. South of the Son river there are regular bazars at Kon, Gaharwagaon, Dudhi and Murli Semar. The last has supplanted Ahraura as for as dealings with Senpar are concerned. **Markets.**

The deficiencies of the weekly bazars are supplemented to some extent by the periodical gatherings of worshippers at the various favourite shrines. Such occasions have always been seized to carry on traffic in small articles. A list of all the fairs in the district will be found in the appendix. The largest and most celebrated of these are the two *Nauratra* fairs held at Bindhachal in March and October. They are attended by some 15,000 persons, drawn from Oudh and the districts bordering on Mirzapur. Next in importance is the gathering at the temple of Mahadeoji at Kotar in Upraudh, and this is followed in importance by the *Khicharwar* fair at Mirzapur in January; the Bhagwati *mela* which is held every Monday in *Aghan* at Garhbarha Raja; the *Kajli* festival at Mirzapur in August; and the *Ashtbhuja mela* at Gopalpur in July. At Chunar several gatherings are held in March at the mausoleum of Shah Qasim Sulaimani, and three times a year, in March, July, and October, at the Durga temples **Fairs.**

to the south of the town. Few of the other fairs held in the district attain considerable proportions, while those celebrated in the Sonpar tract are very few in number.

Communications.

The country north of the Ganges has a more than usually liberal share of excellent roads, but the portion of the district which lies to the south is much less favoured in the matter of accommodation for wheeled traffic. With the exception of those that have been metalled, few of the roads are of a good description, and considerable difficulty is experienced in conveying merchandise to the chief trade centres, especially in the whole tract south of the Vindhyans; beyond the Son conditions are even worse. This is well-illustrated by the small extent to which carts are used in Mirzapur compared with other districts; for, except along the great Deccan road, the Ahraura-Robertsganj road and the Dudhi-Muri Semar road, wheeled traffic is practically unknown. Almost the entire trade of this part of the district is transported over the long distances that separate the markets on the backs of pack bullocks. The chief obstacle consists of the rocky passes which have to be surmounted before the south can be reached; but in addition to these the roads themselves are rough and rocky; and in the rains the numerous swollen streams form an additional impediment to commerce. These drawbacks have always constituted the main difficulty in times of scarcity and famine; and in normal times the traffic is too small to justify a large outlay on metalled roads or bridges.

Railways.

There are three distinct lines of railway in the district. One of these belongs to the Oudh and Rohilkhand system and merely skirts the north of pargana Bhadohi beyond the Ganges for a distance of 26 miles between the terminus at Benares and Partabgarh junction. There are three stations on this line situated within the boundaries of the district at Parsipur, Bhadohi and Suriawan. The second line of rail is the main line of the East Indian Railway which runs south of and parellel to the Ganges river across the whole breadth of the district for a distance of 53 miles. This section of the East Indian Railway was first opened to traffic in 1864. It crosses no important rivers in its route, and has eleven stations within the boundaries of the district at Ahraura Road, Kailahat, Chunar, Dagmagpur, Pahari, Jhingura,

Mirzapur, Bindhachal, Birohi, Gaipura and Jigna. The most recently constructed line forms part of the Bengal and North-Western Railway system. It runs from Benares to Allahabad, along the north bank of the Ganges, through pargana Qariat Sikhar, taluqa Majhwa, tappa Kon, and tahsil Korh, closely following the alignment of the grand trunk road. There are stations on this line at Egatpur, Kachhwa Road, Katka, Madho Singh, Ahmanpur, Korh and Jangiganj; while from Madho Singh a branch takes off and runs to the north bank of the river opposite Mirzapur city, there being one station on it known as Mirzapur ghat. No other projects for opening up the district by means of railways have so far been taken in hand, but the East Indian Railway proposed at one time to make a chord line from Mirzapur to Maihar in Central India of a length of 140 miles. This was estimated to cost Rs. 1,55,00,000 owing to the difficult nature of the country traversed; but no detailed survey has ever been made, and the line is considered at present not to be of sufficient importance to require investigation. The question of building a light line of rail, which would penetrate the southern portion of the district, has more than once been mooted, and was brought to the front again in the famine of 1908 owing to the difficulty of conveying food supplies to the famine-stricken tracts of Sonpar; but no definite proposals have yet been made regarding the scheme, which would probably entail an outlay of a considerable sum of money without corresponding advantages.

The roads of the district are divided into two classes, provincial and local. The former are entirely under the control of the Public Works department, the cost of upkeep being met from provincial revenues; while the latter are under local management, though the actual work of repair to such of them as are metalled is carried out through the agency of the Public Works department, the expense being provided from local funds. Of the provincial roads in the district the most important is the Allahabad, Benares and Karamnasa section of the grand trunk road which runs at a distance of between three and eight miles from the north bank of the Ganges river through pargana Bhadohi. It is 24 miles in length and is bridged and drained throughout. The other provincial road in the district is the great Deccan road, Roads.

which has a total length of 40½ miles. It is raised and bridged throughout except at the crossing of the Belan river, where a causeway is provided. The road hardly more than skirts the western boundary of tahsil Mirzapur. In olden days a large amount of traffic found its way from Rewah and the south *via* the difficult passes of Dibhor and Kerahi to Halia. The great Deccan road was constructed for the benefit of this traffic, the ascent of the Vindhyans being effected by the Harai pass and that of the Kaimurs by the Katra pass. Traffic is now much reduced and is confined to gram and rice from Rewah, wood from the neighbouring jungles and stone from the Vindhyan quarries. The metalled roads which are kept up by the district board have an aggregate length of 82 miles. The chief of them is the Mirzapur-Jaunpur road, 18½ miles long, which cuts across the grand trunk road at Aurai and passes through Bhadohi and is kept up over 13 miles of its length by the Korh local board. Next in length is the road of 17 miles which leads south from Mirzapur to Mariahan; and after this come the roads between Ramnagar and the town of Ahraura, which is over 19 miles long, and that which leads from Mirzapur to Gopiganj on the grand trunk road. The remaining metalled roads are short approach roads such as those which join Gopiganj and Ramghat or connect railway stations with the main lines of communication. There are 148 miles of unmetalled second-class roads which are only partially bridged and drained; of these far the most important is the road, 38 miles long, which leads from Ahraura through Robertsganj to Chopan, and along which most of the traffic from the southern portion of the district once found its way. This road leads up from Sarguja to Chopan *via* either Singrauli or Dudhi, and surmounts the Kewai pass above the Son before reaching Robertsganj. Besides these, roads with a total length of 722 miles traverse the district in all directions. No less than 601 miles of this total are designated sixth class; and the majority of them, especially in the hilly tracts and in Sonpar, are mere bullocks tracks more or less passable or impassable according to the season of the year.

Encamping grounds and bungalows.

There are several Government encamping grounds in the district, besides numerous *paraos* and *laghs*, where people usually

encamp but which are not in any way taken up or reserved for the purpose. Five of the Government encamping grounds are on the great Deccan road. At Bhagwan Talao, 14 miles from Mirzapur, there is a small civil encamping ground, six acres in extent, besides the military encamping ground, which exceeds 38 acres in extent. A second is at Lalganj, 17 miles from Mirzapur; the third at Baraundha, 25 miles; the fourth at Drummondganj, 35 miles from Mirzapur near the Katra pass; and the fifth at Bhainsaur. On the grand trunk road from Benares to Allahabad, encamping grounds for troops are to be found at Katka, 12 miles, and at Gopiganj, 11 miles from Mirzapur: while at Sultanpur there is a small plot, the property of the Government, which is utilized for purposes of encampment. There are other encamping grounds at Kachhwa on the road to Benares, at Pandari Shiugarh and Bishandarpur in Chaurasi, and at Chunar. At Kutwa, 10 miles from Mirzapur on the Mariahan road, a temporary camp, officially known as the Barkachha camp, has been for several years held for the purposes of artillery practice. Troops marching to the Barkachha camp usually halt at Narghat near Mirzapur on the north bank of the Ganges, and a camping ground in this village has been acquired on behalf of the Government. There are inspection bungalows at Babu Sarai and Lalanagar on the grand trunk road, and at Bhagwan Talao, Baraundha, Bhainsaur and Drummondganj on the great Deccan road. Other bungalows in the charge of the Public Works department are situated within the fort at Chunar, at Mariahan, Rastogi Talao, Chhato, Kalwari, Ghorawal, Shahganj, Robertsganj and Bahwara. The district board maintains rest houses at Mirzapur, Halia, Chopan, Oudh Paraspani, and there are other bungalows at Dudhi, Murli Semar, Hathinala and Muirpur. Besides these, there is a spacious five-roomed house, overlooking the railway and Ganges river, situated on the Vindhyan scarp at a distance of one mile from the Bindhachal railway station. This was built by Lala Jangi Lal of Mirzapur and presented by him as a sanitarium for the use of the European residents of the district. A similar bungalow at Tanda in Chaurasi, which overlooks the Tanda waterfall, owes its erection to the generosity of Sheo Din Sahu, a banker of Mirzapur. Both bungalows are in the direct charge of the district magistrate.

Ferries.

A list of all the ferries in the district, whether public or private, is given in the appendix. At the present time there are twenty-five ferries over the Ganges and eight on the Son, thirteen being managed by the district board, seven, all on the Ganges, by the Maharaja of Benares, and the remainder being private and worked by the local *zamindars*. From those ferries, of which it retains direct control, the district board has during the last five years derived an average income of Rs. 28,243. Besides these, there are boats for the transport of travellers and merchandise at Obra and Sindhuria on the Rihand; but this river is generally fordable as soon as the rains are at an end. This description applies equally to the Chandraprabha and Karamnasa; though the Maharaja of Benares maintains seven ferries on these rivers in pargana Kera Mangraur, that on the Chandraprahha being situated at Sikandarpur and those on the Karamnasa at Mangraur, Keradih, Shahganj, Ikauna, Bhursar and Naugarh. These are all directly under the private management of the Maharaja and bring in little or no income.

Navigation.

Something has already been said regarding the navigation of the Ganges and Son, which are still to some extent utilized for purposes of transport. The Ganges is practicable for boats of one thousand maunds burthen or even more during the rains, but the railway has caused the abandonment of most of the boat traffic, which is now almost entirely confined to the conveyance of stone and wood. There is a large number of wharves on the river where cargoes are taken in or landed, the majority being on the southern bank owing to the proximity of the quarries. These exist at Margurra, Sheopur, Tiwaripur, Bindhachal, Kantit, Ojhla, Basahi, Baghicha, Kandwa-ka-Nar, Narghat, Gaughat, Ganga Ramghat, Sundarghat; Eliotghat, Fatiha, Bishandarpur, Companyghat, Pipradand, Gangautu, Semra, Newaria, Siuhar, Lendu, Chapaur, Bhatauli, Jaunsra, Ratanbo, Chhataha, Dharamdewa, Sikri Ramnagar, Kanaura, Chhota Nanhupur, Bara Nanhupur, Chandika, Kathnehi, Saraiyan, Sindhaura, Bhaunrahi, Timmalganj, Bahramganj, Tikaur, Balwaghat, Belhir, Gangpur, Bhamanipur, Chirkathar, Chhota Mirza pur and Garwaghat. There are thirty-one other wharves on the northern bank of the river at Harsinghpur, Mawaiya, Lakhanpura, Majhgawan, Bara-Chil, Bhataura, Dallupatti, Garhgeri, Kamasan,

Gahia, Kolhua Sahu, Rampur, Tiksari, Mathia, Bhogaon, Pachhaura, Keotahir, Baraini, Bajha, Pemanpur, Kantupur, Pasiahi, Ghamahi, Sikhar, Bhualpur, Mirhia, Sultanpur, Tikri, Purhua and Madrahua. It is the custom for the Mallahs, who form generally the class of boatmen and reside in the riverine villages, to leave the district after the *Kajli* fair in August. If their boats are large they take on cargoes of stone and grain; if they are small they carry passengers, the destinations being Sheorajganj, Dacca, Dhuleri, Goalpura and even distant Assam. During the whole of the cold weather and up till the month of April they work as boatmen or pilots in the timber and carrying trade of the Bengal rivers; and then, if the season is favourable and they have earned sufficient profits, they sail homewards on the east wind with cargoes of rice, cocoanuts and similar things, arriving in June and July. In good years as many as six hundred boats will return; but if trade is bad and earnings have been low, only half this number may come home, the remainder staying on for another season's work.

CHAPTER III.

THE PEOPLE.

Early enumerations.

The first attempt made to number the inhabitants of Mirzapur was that of the general census of 1848. Population was estimated on the basis of persons to a house and the total was returned at 831,388 persons. Little reliance, however, can be placed on these figures. It was not until the census of 1853 that anything approaching a scientific enumeration was effected. On that occasion the whole population was returned at 1,104,315 persons who were distributed in 5,280 *mauzas* or townships and over 5,152 square miles of country. The average density was 214 persons to the square mile, ranging from 903 in tappa Kon to only 32 in pargana Agori. Twelve years later, when another census was taken in 1865, the population was recorded as 1,056,337 souls, all told, representing a decrease of 47,978 or 4·3 per cent. on the figures of 1853. The total area of the district was now stated to be 5,200·23 square miles, and the resultant density was therefore 203 persons to the square mile. The reasons for the decrease during this period are not clear; on the whole it was probably more apparent than real, for the inhabitants of the rural areas seem to have been over-estimated in 1853. A part, however, may be ascribed to the commercial decay of the city of Mirzapur. Eight years later or in 1872, when the first of the regular scientific enumerations was made, the people numbered 1,015,826 persons, the decrease being 3·8 per cent. This was attributed to the continued commercial decline of the city of Mirzapur, the breaking up of the hand-loom industry, and the scarcity and accompanying epidemics of 1868 and 1869. Every pargana or tappa had lost population with the exception of Saktesgarh and Kera-Mangraur; and the total density had fallen to 195 persons to the square mile. On this, as on previous occasions, there was always a suspicion that the population had been under-estimated, especially in the little known tracts of Sonpar.

Census 1881.

The suspicion was confirmed at the census of 1881. It was then ascertained that the total population of the district amounted

to 1,136,796 persons, showing an increase of 120,970 souls or 11·9 per cent. over the figures of the previous census. Every local division of the country, except tappa Chaurasi and pargana Qariat Sikhar, received an accretion of population; and the density on a total area of 5,223 square miles had risen to 217·6 persons per square mile. It is true that during the time that had elapsed since the previous census the district had suffered less than others from calamity and that consequently the positive checks to population were less active; but this was insufficient to account for the abnormal rate of progress that had taken place. At the same time the facts were not satisfactorily explicable by immigration, though at this period the settling of the waste tracts in the south had certainly been responsible for some of the improvement. Consequently the bulk of the remarkable increase of population was ascribed to previous faulty enumeration. On this occasion taluqa Majhwa was the most densely populated tract with 818 persons to the square mile, while the density in Agori, which was lowest in the scale, had risen to 45 persons to the square mile.

Census of 1891.

The increase was maintained during the succeeding decade and in 1891 the population was returned at 1,161,508 persons, a rise of 24,712 persons or 2·2 per cent. The rise was largest in the Robertsganj tahsil, but tahsil Mirzapur actually showed a decrease, the bulk of the loss falling on tappa Upraudh. The area of the district was returned at 5,223 square miles and the resultant density was accordingly 222·4 persons per square mile. The decade was unmarked by any serious agricultural calamity and during it the numbers of the population appear to have reached their zenith.

Census of 1901.

The last census took place in March 1901, and it was then found that the inhabitants of Mirzapur numbered 1,082,430 souls, showing a decrease of 79,078 in the preceding ten years. The decline is to be accounted for chiefly by the effects of scarcity owing to drought. All tahsils suffered equally, but the highest loss fell on Mirzapur and Robertsganj, where the greatest difficulty in getting the aboriginal tribes to come on to relief works had been experienced. It is probable also that emigration to the eastern districts of Bengal had increased in this period. The mean density

per square mile was now 207; but if the city population be excluded it is not more than 191·9, and represents a lower proportion than that of any district in the province, with the exception of those situated in the Himalayas and of Jhansi. There is, however, a very large difference between various parts of the district; and the density of that portion whichr lies in the Ganges valley is as great as the density of any othe similarly situated tract except Ballia and a few other parganas of the eastern districts. In tahsil Korh, comprising the pargana of Bhadohi, there are 720 persons to the square mile; but the district average is pulled down by the scanty population of Robertsganj, which does not exceed 85 souls to the square mile.

In 1853, the only places possessing over 5,000 inhabitants were Mirzapur, Chunar, Ahraura and Bindhachal, and in 1865 the first two of these alone exceeded that limit. In 1872 the number rose again to three, the population of Ahraura having increased in the interval to over 5,000. The number has not since changed, and in 1901 the urban population comprised only 10·2 per cent. of the people. In 1872 the district contained 4,104 towns and villages, of which 4,031 contained less than 1,000 persons, while 60 of the remainder had less than 2,000 and 10 less than 5,000. Ten years later there were 4,355 towns and villages, of which 4,245 had populations of less than 1,000, while 88 others had less than 2,000, and 19 between 2,000 and 5,000. In 1891 the total fell to 4,307, the reduction in all classes being proportionate; and at the last census, their number was recorded as 4,264. Of these as many as 3,810 were inhabited by less than 500 souls, while of the remainder 360 had populations of less than 1,000, 78 of less than 2,000 and 13 of less than 5,000. The greatest number of large villages is to be found, as might be expected, in the Korh tahsil, after which comes Mirzapur; but the population of Robertsganj is for the most part scattered in small settlements, the greater part of which contain less than 100 inhabitants. Towns and villages.

The domestic architecture of the villages in the country north of the Son does not differ from that found in other parts of the province. The poorest dwellings that compose the hamlet are simply rectangles of mud with a tiled or thatched roof and a single aperture

by way of a door, and occasionally some sort of enclosure in front. Where the family is large, two such huts may be placed face to face and connected by mud walls so as to form a courtyard; and in the case of still larger joint families, four or five such huts are run together and arranged in the form of a hollow square, with the common courtyard in the centre. As we go upward in the scale of wealth, we find an open verandah added in front, sometimes supported on handsome carved pillars of stone or wood. Between this and the *angan* or courtyard is a long narrow common room, and, on the other three sides, the private rooms of the family. Another addition may be a second courtyard beyond the first, with similar rooms surrounding it, for the special use of the women. The most primitive dwellings are found in the tract south of the Son, where they consist of little more than a wattled shed of small dimensions overgrown with climbing vegetables. This flimsiness of construction is doubtless a survival of the nomadic habits of the people. At the other extreme are the solid buildings of the cities, towns and large villages. Here the houses are commonly two or three storeys high, the best rooms being on the second floor and the lower ones devoted to shops, store-rooms and the like. Stone enters far less largely into their construction than might be expected, and as a rule the small thin bricks known as *lakhauri* are the prevailing material for the better class of houses. Though ashlar is seldom the material of the walls, stone is used wherever procurable for pillars, jambs, lintels, copings and roofing slabs. Even in the poorest houses slabs of stone, as the cheaper material, often replace the wooden door-frames of other parts; while the houses of the rich have sometimes their whole faCade encrusted with elaborate carving. Many of these are coloured wholly or partially a deep Indian red, with a not unpleasing effect; but they are sometimes white-washed in so crude a way as to obliterate all the finer lines of the carving. There is a number of old forts scattered throughout the district. The sombre fortresses of Chunar and Bijaigarh, and the smaller castles of Latifpur, Agori and other places owe most of their effect to situation and surroundings, not to any intrinsic excellence of architecture or grandeur of design. The numerous village strongholds are now reduced for the most part to half-effaced rectangles of mud and possess only an antiquarian interest.

The population of the district is on the whole little affected by migration in spite of the fact that the lower caste inhabitants of northern Mirzapur have for many years been in the habit of migrating to Eastern Bengal or Calcutta, where the demand for labour, especially in the jute industry, is very great. These visits, however, are seldom of long duration; for the usual custom is to start after the rains and return at the beginning of the hot weather. Emigration to the colonies is insignificant, and there is little to induce the inhabitants of the fertile valley of the Ganges to change their home so long as population does not increase at too rapid a rate. The census returns of 1901 show that 91·86 per cent. of the population enumerated in Mirzapur was born in Mirzapur and 6·71 in contiguous tracts, while only 1·42 per cent. came from other parts of India. The percentage of immigrants was therefore only 8·1. On the other hand, of all the persons enumerated in India who gave Mirzapur as their birthplace 91·70 per cent. were found in the district, 5·07 per cent. in other districts of the province, and 3·23 per cent. elsewhere. The percentage of emigrants is thus 8·30, and it is almost exactly counteracted by the number of immigrants. It is considerably below the average of the other districts of the Benares division, though it is larger than that of sub-Himalayan districts in the east. Migration.

At the last census the population comprised 530,075 males and 552,355 females, the latter standing to the former in proportion of 104·2 to 100. This preponderance of females is common to the bulk of the Benares and Gorakhpur divisions, and also occurs in the south-east of Oudh, but the only district in which it is greater than in Mirzapur is Ballia. There has been a remarkable increase in the number of females over males, for in 1872 the proportion of the former was only 95·0. In 1881 it rose to 100·4, and in 1891 to 101·5. Both Hindus and Musalmans share this feature in common, but the excess of females is more pronounced among the former than among the latter. None of the usual explanations offered, such as immigration or the absence of female infanticide, serve to account for the remarkable difference that exist between the eastern and western portions of the province in respect of a preponderance of females; and the phenomenon is probably due to obscure physical causes which have as Sex.

yet not been sufficiently explained. The Rajput is the only important caste in which males exceed females in the district.

Religions. Mirzapur is essentially a Hindu district. In 1901 the population was made up of 1,007,919 Hindus, 72,502 Musalmans, 712 Christians, 692 Sikhs, 370 Aryas, 225 Jains and 10 Parsis. The porportion of Hindus to Musalmans is thus 93·12 per cent. and is higher than that of any district in the Benares and Gorakhpur divisions or Oudh, except Ballia. The proportion, however, appears to have decreased, for in 1881 it stood at 93·42 and in 1891 at 93·43 per cent. On the other hand Musalmans have shown an increase, the proportion borne by members of this creed to the total rising from 6·48 per cent. in 1891 to 6·70 per cent. in 1901. The same phenomenon has been observed in almost all parts of the province, and is usually ascribed to the greater fertility and longevity of the Muhammadan population, and also in some part to the fact that, forming as they do a smaller proportion of the very poor, they are less liable to be affected by agricultural calamity. Islam appears to be making little progress from conversion, the district being, from its association with the Ganges and the shrine at Bindhachal, a very stronghold of Hinduism. It has, however, become the fashion in recent years for followers of the cult of the Panchon Pir and Ghazi Mian to call themselves Musalmans, and of late years a few conversions of low caste Hindu women on their marriage with Muhammadans have come to light. A branch of the Arya Samaj was started in Mirzapur in 1880; weekly meetings are held by it; but the attendance is small, and though the number of adherents of this creed has trebled between 1891 and 1901, in no sense can this society be said to have as yet attained a vigorous growth. The Sikhs are found scattered in all tahsils, and especially in Mirzapur, and are for the most part in government service. The Jains are an insignificant portion of the population, and are mainly residents in the district for the purposes of trade: and the same remarks apply to the few resident Parsis.

Christianity. The Christian population of Mirzapur in 1901 comprised 299 Europeans and Eurasians and 413 natives of India. Of the latter 93 belonged to the Anglican Communion, 254 were Congregationalists, 3 Methodists, 30 Presbyterians, 4 Roman Catholics and 28 belonged to minor denominations or were of unspecified sect.

The London Missionary Society started work at Mirzapur in 1837, under the Reverend Dr. Mather. The society possesses two churches in Mirzapur itself, where regular services are held; and is served by a staff of four missionaries, two of whom are ladies in special charge of a large female orphanage. The same society established a branch at Dudhi in 1862, where it built a combined church and mission house and schools for both boys and girls, entirely under native supervision, but visited occasionally by the missionaries at Mirzapur. In 1897 the buildings of a large indigo factory at Kachhwa were acquired and converted into a hospital and dispensary for in-door and out-door patients, in the charge of a European doctor assisted by an hospital assistant; and a mission house was built as the residence of a European missionary. Besides these, there is a branch of the Church Missionary Society at Chunar: and there are churches at Ahraura and at a few other places. The mission school at Mirzapur enjoys the reputation of providing the best education in the district, and is considerably more popular even than the district school. Employment in pillow lace-making is also provided for native Christian and Hindu women and finished articles to the value of about]]Rs. 1,000 annually are sold. Christianity has on the whole made steady but slow progress; for in 1881 there were only 222 native Christians in the district, and this number fell to 179 in 1891. The increase between the latter year and 1901 represents a rise of over 120 per cent.

The majority of the Hindus of the district belong to no definite sect or denomination, though at the same time a larger proportion than usual were returned at the census of 1901 as followers of a particular school. Thus as many as 30·8 per cent. were classed as worshippers of the Panchon Pir, 10·5 per cent. as Vaishnavites and 2 per cent. as Saivites: there were 8,121 Monotheists and a few Radhaswamis. The Panch Pir are the five original great saints of Islam, namely Muhammad himself, Ali, Fatima, Hasan and Hussein; but their worship has undergone a grievous degradation. The cultus prevails very largely among the lower Hindu castes of the Benares division, and has been overwhelmed by a mass of the wildest legend and mythology: little is derived from the real Islamite saints and the enumeration of the five *pirs* Hindus.

themselves seldom agrees, though Ghazi Mian is a constant member in all cases. The latter is sometimes represented by an iron bar wrapped in red cloth and adorned with flowers, which is taken round from house to house, while drums are beaten and petty offerings of grain are levied from the villagers. Low caste Hindus, like Pasis and Chamars, worship the five in the form of five wooden pegs fixed in the courtyard of the house.* The majority of the Saivites are Lingaits and Pasupats; and the Vaishnavites are for the most part Ramanandis who require no further description. It is impossible, however, to label with the name of a particular sect the ill-defined religion of most of the Hindus of the district, even of the higher castes. Generally it may be said that some intensity is added to the religious life of the district by the proximity of Benares and the presence of the famous shrines of Bindhachal and Ashtbhuja. On the other hand temples are not conspicuously numerous even in the large towns, nor, with the exception of those just mentioned, are there any of great note or sanctity.

nimism.

The religion of the low caste and aboriginal inhabitants of Mirzapur may perhaps be collectively described best as Animism. In the case of some of them, it is tinged to a varying extent with Hinduism; but the majority are addicted to a variety of miscellaneous beliefs, in which godlings of disease and nature, ghosts, ogres, the dead ancestors, totems, fetishes, and even trees and serpents figure largely. Instances of these will come to light when an account is given of the castes and tribes, but in every case a constant feature of the religious life is the veneration of the collective village godlings, called *deohar*, and the exorcism of spirits and demons through two personages, the Baiga and Ojha, whose position requires special description; while in some cases there are special deities who from the importance attached to them deserve more detailed notice. The shrine of the regular village gods in the western districts is generally a small square building with a bulbous head and perhaps an iron spike as a finial. A red flag hung on an adjoining tree marks the shrine. These shrines never contain idols,

e lage llings *deohar*;

* The whole cultus has been described by the late Mr. R. Greeven in *North Indian Notes and Queries*, Volume II : *vide* also Crooke : *Popular Religion and Folklore*, p. 131.

which are only placed in the temples of the greater gods; but many of them have an inside platform on which a deity may rest, if desired. In the eastern districts these village shrines are much less substantial erections. In the Gangetic valley, where the population has been completely Hinduised, they consist usually of a pile of stones collected under some sacred, ancient tree, pieces of carved stone, the relics of some ruined temple, being frequently utilized for the purpose. Some of these stones, particularly those which retain some semblance to a figure or are decorated with ornamental carving, are occasionally smeared with oil and vermillion. Little clay images of horses and elephants and curious bowls with short legs, known as *kalsa*, are offered, the former being by some supposed to represent the equipage of the deity and by others the donation of votaries in distress whose prayers have been realized. On the neighbouring trees are often suspended miniature cots which commemorate the recovery of a patient from small-pox or other infectious disease. Among the semi-Hinduised Dravidian races of the Vindhyan range who worship Gansam Deo and Raja Lakhan, the shrine usually consists of a rude, mud building, roofed with thatch, and contains a small mud platform on which are placed some of the curiously shaped earthen bowls already described, which are made specially for this worship and are not used for ordinary domestic purposes. In these water is placed for the refreshment of the godling, while ordinarily the offering deposited on the altar platform consists of a thick griddle cake and a little milk. Further south, beyond the Son, the shrine is of an even simpler type and is represented by a few boulders near a stream where the worshippers assemble and make their offerings. No special direction from the homestead is prescribed in selecting the site for these shrines, and, while no orthodox Hindu temple can be built south of the village site, as this is regarded as the realm of Yama, the lord of the dead, the site of the village shrine is often selected under a suitable tree, whatever its position as regards the homestead. These shrines have no idol, but a special implement is commonly found in them in the hill country south of the Ganges. This is an iron chain, about three and a half feet long, with a heavy knot at the end to which a strap, two feet long, is attached. This is known as the *gurda*; it hangs

from the roof of the shrine and is believed to be directly under the influence of the deity. The Baiga priest, when his services are required for the exorcism of a disease ghost, thrashes himself on the back and loins with this chain, and in serious cases of epilepsy, hysteria and the like, which do not readily yield to ordinary exorcism, the patient is taken to the shrine and severely beaten with the holy chain until the demon is expelled. Among the more primitive Gonds the chain itself has become a godling and is regularly worshipped. A speciality of the class of godlings worshipped in the *deohar* is that they frequent only particular places. Each has his separate jurisdiction which includes generally one or sometimes a group of villages: and people to whom the local god is obnoxious or who fail to propitiate him by appropriate offerings can usually escape from his malignity by leaving his district. This habit of emigration to escape the malignity of the offended godling perhaps accounts for the desertion of many of the old uninhabited sites which are scattered all over the country. Hence it is absolutely essential that the local godling or group of godlings should be brought under proper control and carefully identified so as to ensure the safety and prosperity of the settlement. Among the Dravidian tribes of the Vindhyan plateau, the system of control pursued is for the Baiga, once a year at least or oftener in cases of pestilence and other trouble, to perambulate all round the village boundary, sprinkling a line of liquor on the ground as he walks. The idea is to form a magic circle impervious to strange and (in the nature of the case) malignant ghosts who might wish to intrude from outside and to control the resident ghosts and to prevent the latter from contracting evil habits of mischief by wandering beyond their prescribed domains. Typical instances of these local godlings are Banspati Ma, the mistress of the jungle; Ghataut, the deity of dangerous passes; both of whom have shrines consisting of a rude mass of branches and stones, to which every passer by contributes; and Gansam Deo and Dulha Deo, who will be described further on.

Ojhas and Baigas.

The practice of exorcising the demons of disease, such as cholera and small-pox, has been among these primitive people elaborated into something like a science. Disease, according to the general belief of the rural population, can be removed by a species

of magic usually of the variety known as sympathetic, or it may be transferred from the sufferer to some one else. The special incantations for disease are in the hands of low caste sorcerers or magicians. Among the races of Dravidian origin this is the business of the Baiga or aboriginal priest ; but even here there is a differentiation of function, and though the Baiga is usually competent to deal with persons possessed by evil spirits, it is only special persons who can undertake the regular exorcism. This is the duty of the Ojha, whose name is a corruption of the Sanskrit *Upadhyaya* and means teacher. Exorcisers are both professional and non-professional, the former having generally learnt their art from a *guru* or teacher and the latter being for the most part persons who owe their powers on their own showing to a guardian spirit. Usually the son of an Ojha is educated by his father and taught the various spells and modes of incantation so that the office is hereditary : but this is not always the case. In his proper form, the Ojha is only found in Mirzapur in the completely Brahmanised Gangetic valley and is always a low-class Brahman ; but south of the Son his duties are usually performed by the Baiga, who is invariably drawn from the aboriginal races. Thus the functions of the Ojha and Baiga are practically identical. The Baiga has a parish which extends over one to three villages. For this area he is the general witch-finder and exorcist, and he is furthermore bound to protect its inhabitants, crops and cattle from the attacks of all malevolent ghosts and demons. He may be a Chero, Kol, or Bhuinyar, but not a Manjhi. He is remunerated with dues, known as *kharwan*, consisting of a certain allowance of gram per plough at harvest time ; and in many villages a grant of land is also given to him. Besides these sources of income he derives considerable profit from the various sacrifices he is called on to perform. When summoned professionally, in a case of possession, he takes some barley in a sieve and scatters it until only a few grains are left in the interstices. Then he marks down the intruding ghost by counting the grains and recommends the sacrifice of a fowl or a goat or the offering of some liquor, most of which he usually consumes himself. In some cases he works himself up into a dance of ecstasy, when he is supposed to be under the influence of the deity and able to announce its pleasure ; and in other cases he

expels the demon by flagellation with the *gurda*, as already explained. His other duties consist in the perambulation of the village fields to keep off evil spirits, and in being the common medium of worship between his parishioners and the godlings of the rustic pantheon.

Special deities.

The chief god of the Kols is Raja Lakhan. He is a deified mortal, Raja Lakhana Deva, the son of Raja Jai Chand of Kanauj, who was killed by Shahab-ud-din Ghori in 1192 A.D. The dominions of this chieftain must have extended to the Kol country, for there is a pillar with an inscription in his honour at Belkhara near Ahraura. There is some reason to believe that he led a campaign against the Muhammadan invaders, and this is perhaps the cause of his deification. But the Kols know little of him, save that he is a great god and once appeared to a man on the road, and that ever since then they have worshipped him. In song he is generally called Kanaujiya Rae. Two divinities special to the Dravidian aces of southern Mirzapur are Gansam or Ghansam Deo and Dulha Deo. The former is a popular deity of the Gonds and kindred rtribes. Some vague attempts have been made to elevate him into the pantheon of Brahmanism, and his name has been corrupted into *Ghanasyama*, which means in Sanskrit, "black like the thick heavy clouds of the rainy season," an epithet of Rama and Krishna. One legend says that he was an actual Gond chieftain who was devoured by a tiger soon after his marriage ; that his spirit was restless and that one year after his death he visited his wife, who concieved and bore him a son, the descendants of this ghostly embrace being still alive at Amoda in the Central Provinces. Another, without relating that he was anybody in particular, states that he was coming from the east and that, as he went, he was so pleased with the songs of some children in Dudhi that he has stayed there ever since. His head quarters are in Kota, but there are shrines at other places, notably at Markundi ; and in the hill country his place of worship is generally about one hundred yards from the village site and without any ornamentation , a platform of mud being erected for him to rest upon when so disposed. In the worship of Dulha Deo, " the bridegroom god," may be found the echo of some great tragedy which still exercises a profound influence on the minds of the people. The bridegroom on his way to

fetch his bride, is, by established Hindu custom, treated with special reverence; and this unfortunate bridegroom, whose name is forgotten, is said to have been killed by lightning in the midst of his marriage rejoicings, both he and the horse he rode being turned into stone. Like Ganymede or Hylas, he was carried off by the envy or cruel love of merciless divine powers; and the Manjhis know a fragment of a song about him, evidently a portion of an ancient, half forgetten lyric describing the tragic end of the person who is now worshipped as a god. This is worth reproduction:—

" Jimiliya men janam bhayo
Sargujva men biyah rachal
Eriya men mahawar, piar dhotiya.
Dulha gauna karave chal bhailin
Age, age Dulhaji ka ghora chalal;
Pichhe, pichhe dulhinji ki danri."

This means that " his birth was in Jilmiliya: his wedding was arranged in Sarguja. With red dye on his heels, and wearing a yellow loin cloth, the bridegroom went to get married. In front went the bridegroom's horse, behind the bride's palanquin." Dulha Deo is worshipped in February and August, but he has no temple or images; no woman is allowed to be present when worship is paid him. But among some of the Gond tribes he occupies the first place in the pantheon and is identified with Pharsipen, the god of war; while in the states of Rewah and Sarguja even Brahmans worship him, and his symbol or fetish is the battle-axe, the national weapon of the Dravidians, fastened to a tree. He is specially the tribal god of the Ghasias.* The only other deity that need here be mentioned is Raja Chandol. He is a favourite object of worship among the Kharwars, but his history is obscure. A local tradition makes him a Chauhan Chhattri who come from the native state of Rewah; and states that he was a Raja in his country and that he was worshipped as a god after his death. He is generally venerated in the month of February by the Baiga with an offering of goats, cakes and milk and a burnt sacrifice of sugar and butter, the

* Yet another account of Dulha Deo comes from Bhopal. It differs very much from that believed in Mirzapur and is given in Crooke: *Pop. Rel.*, p. 76, and Sleeman: *Rambles and Recollections* (1844), Vol. I, p. 131.

sacrifice being usually offered under the sacred tree of the village, though Raja Chandol is not considered to belong to the *deohar* or aggregate of village gods. Raja Chandol has a shrine on the Gaura hill in Dudhi under a *pipal* tree, where he is worshipped by Manjhis. He appears to be the same as Chandor, a deity of the Bengal Mundas, who has been identified on another theory with the goddess Chando Ornol or Chanala, the moon, worshipped by women as the wife of Singbonga and the mother of the stars.

Hindu castes. The Hindu community includes representatives of no fewer than 75 separate castes, excluding subdivisions, while in the case of 1,420 persons no caste was specified at the last census. A large number of these castes, however, are very scantily represented. In 13 instances the total exceeds 20,000 persons apiece. Among the remainder an unusually large number deserve notice on account of their comparative rarity in or total absence from other districts of the province; for Mirzapur presents a greater variety in the composition of its population than any other district. Many of the castes, however, occur almost everywhere, and are too well known to call for detailed mention.

Brahmans. First on the list come Brahmans, who number 152,705 persons and form 15·1 per cent. of the Hindu population. This caste is most numerous in the Mirzapur and Korh tahsils, though everywhere they form one of the largest divisions of the people. The bulk of them are Sarwarias or Sarjuparis: Kanaujias, Gaurs and Sakaldips also occur, but only in small numbers. Of the three principal *gotras* of the Sarwarias, Garg Brahmans are found in pargana Barhar, with the village of Naugaon as their principal seat; Gautams in Chaurasi; and Sandils in pargana Bhagwat. Of *gotras* which are usually classed as inferior the Parasar occur in Chaurasi; and the Bharadwaj, Kasyap and Vashisth in Barhar. As landholders Brahmans form an important portion of the population. Their advent into the district is due probably to the grant of lands in return for services as family priests; while others trace their position to the liberality and patronage of Chandel princes.

Chamars. After them come Chamars with 134,384 representatives, forming 13·3 per cent. of the Hindu inhabitants. They call for no detailed mention. They occur in large numbers in every tahsil in the district, and comprise the general labouring population of

each tract. In tahsil Chakia, Chunar and Robertsganj they outnumber Brahmans; and as cultivators are certainly among the most laborious, and often among the best.

Ahirs and Kurmis.

Ahirs, who follow Chamars and have 101,755 representatives or 10 per cent. of the Hindus, are almost entirely Gwalabans. By occupation they are cowherds or cultivators, and are well distributed over all tahsils. They are succeeded by Kurmis to the number of 64,348 or 6·38 per cent. over half of whom are confined to the Chunar tahsil. The Kurmis of Mirzapur belong to a large number of subdivisions, the best represented of which is the Jaiswar. As usual they are the most skilful portion of the agricultural population.

Rajputs

Rajputs number 41,858 members and form 4·1 per cent. of the Hindu population. This caste comprises members of a large number of clans, but only four of these occur in numbers exceeding 2,000 and many have very few representatives. Rajputs are most numerous in Korh and Mirzapur and first among the clans comes the Gaharwar, totalling 6,181 persons. The latter are headed by two notable families—one, which has for some 350 years professed the Musalman faith, formerly possessed in sovereignty the pargana of Kera-Mangraur, while the Rajas of Kantit are the heads of the younger branch. Their history is the same as that of their leading representatives, and, like that of the Chandels, who number 2,456 and count among their number the Rajas of Agori-Barhar and Bijaigarh, will be more fittingly postponed till we come to speak of the leading families of the district. Gaharwars are followed by Bais Rajputs to the number of 4,594 persons, and are scattered over all tahsils. They and the Bisens, numbering 2,500 persons, probably came into the district for the most part through intermarriage with other Rajput clans, though some appear, as for example in Bhadohi, to have received grants of land from ancient Bhar chieftains. Of the remaining Rajput clans, the only one which deserves notice is the Monas or Maunas, whose number was not separately recorded at the census of 1901.* The Monas are found almost exclusively in the Benares division, and in Mirzapur occur chiefly in pargana Bhadohi. They say that their original seat was Ambar, and that over fifty generations ago some of them

* In 1891, however, they numbered 9,144.

started on a pilgrimage to Gaya. Bhadohi was then ruled by the Bhars, and one of the Bhar Rajas ordered a Brahman, named Siva Man, to give his daughter in marriage to his son. The Brahman appealed to many of the neighbouring Rajas for protection: but they failed him, until the party of Monas Rajputs took up his cause and finally captured Chauthar which was the chief stronghold of the Bhars. Thus they gained the country; and their last Raja was Takht Singh, who was overcome by Balwant Singh, the first Raja of Benares.

Other Hindu castes.

Before proceeding to give an account of the semi-Hinduised or aboriginal tribes, who furnish the chief point of interest in the ethnology of Mirzapur, a few words are necessary concerning the other most numerous Hindu castes. These are Kewats, 40,462 persons, practically all of whom live in Korh and Mirzapur; Koris, 40,375; Telis, 23,626; Banias, 23,575; Lohars, 22,978; and Gadariyas, 22,295. No detailed mention is needed concerning Koris, Telis and Lohars. They are well distributed over all tahsils and follow traditional occupations which are well enough known. Banias belong for the most part to the Kasarwani, Agrahari and Umar subdivisions; but as a body they have decreased in importance since the commercial decline of the city of Mirzapur began about 1850. They are found in all tahsils, but are of course most numerous in Mirzapur. Gadariyas, like Kewats, occur in largest numbers in tahsils Korh and Mirzapur, and after these in Chunar: elsewere they are comparatively scarce. They are professional shepherds, and belong for the most part to the commonest or Nikhar subdivision. Other castes having more than 10,000 representatives are Pasis, 19,699, chiefly in Korh; Kahars, 17,637; Kalwars, 15,834; Nais, 15,445; Kayasths, 12,885; Lunias, 12,174; Mallahs, 11,269; and Dhobis, 10,722.

Aboriginal tribes: Kols.

The numerically strongest of the aboriginal tribes is the Kol. In 1901 they amounted to 27,346 persons, two-thirds of whom are to be found in tahsils Mirzapur and Robertsganj. They state that they are emigrants from a place called Kutali in the territories of the Bardi Raja in Rewah State. They name one Nanhu as their ancestor, and like the Musahars, have a tribal temple at Pipari, near Chunar, where is the shrine of Birmha Devi. Like many of the kindred tribes, they have legends of a kingdom in

the Gangetic valley, whence they were expelled by the Savaras or Seoris and retired into the hill country to the south. What is now Saktesgarh in the hill country above Chunar was formerly called Kolana, and the pargana of Kol Asla in Benares still bears their name. The name is probably derived from "*Ho*," which means "a man" in the pure Kol dialect; and the tribe is certainly related to the Mundaris and Mundas of Bengal. But whatever their origin may have been, the customs of the Kols have now become deeply tinged with Hinduism. They have shaken off the elaborate system of totemistic septs still found among the Mundas of Bengal and have adopted a subdivision into endogamous *kuris* or *gotras*. The number of the latter is variously given, but is probably seven, and they are derived from the exogamous *tat* or *thal* of olden days. *Tat* properly signifies the tribal mat on which the assembled council of elders sits; this council is composed only of the heads of the families. As regards religion, they appear to have lost all recollection of the Singbonga, the Sun God, revered by the Mundas; for the Mirzapur Kol, though he bows before Suraj Narayan or the Sun when he leaves his house in the morning, does not seem to venerate him more than all Hindus do. He worships demons and spirits, whom he greatly fears, and the souls of the dead. In the north of the district the Kols generally employ Ojhas or witch-finders for worship and exorcism; but south of the Son, their worship is carried on through the Baiga or Bhuiyar, who acts both as exorcist and witch-finder. The chief god of the Kols is Raja Lakhan: he has sometimes a rude shrine of his own but in general he is believed to inhabit the village *bargad* tree, and is worshipped by the head of the family who sacrifices a ram in his honour and pours a little liquor near the shrine. Besides this there are several minor deities, such as Rakhsel and Phulmati Devi, who are the local guardians of men and cattle; Baghaut or tiger-ghost; Bansapti or Banspati Mata; Bhawani; Chithariya Bir, "the hero of tatters," who lives in a tree on which rags are hung; and many similar deities of forest and mountain. The goddess Sitala Mata is worshipped when small-pox breaks out, and the Nag or snake-god at the Nagpanchmi festival. Most Kols are ploughmen and a few have land of their own: but the more primitive among them are addicted to the destructive system of *dhaiya* cultivation.

Majhwars. Next to Kols come Majhwars with 21,259 representatives, entirely in Robertsganj; they are called indifferently Manjhis,* Majhwars and Gond Majhwars. The name is derived from the Sanskrit *madhya* or middle, and is said to mean either the holders of the middle land, or, as is more probable, leader or headman. Their appearance is of the ordinary Gond type, their heads being broader and their noses coarser than those of the Kols and Pankhas. Their traditions point to a western origin and fix the date of their immigration into the district about 1650 A. D. They represent themselves as having come from a series of forts along the line of the western Vindhyan and Kaimur ranges, and they maintain their connection with their native land by occasional pilgrimages to shrines at Saranggarh† and Maruagarh.‡ They have a legend to the effect that when Ram Chandra broke the famous bow at the court of Janaka, king of Videha and in Mithila, its pieces fell in four places, to the site of one of which, on the banks of the Narbada, they still resort for pilgrimage. Their connection with the Gonds is further kept up by the common worship of the national deities, *Burha Deo* or *Ningo,* and his attendant *Baghiya*; and they say that there are a temple and images of these tribal gods at their place of pilgrimage on the Narbada. In Mirzapur, however, Ningo resides either in the common village shrine, *deohar*, or in some ancient *sal* tree, which no Manjhi will cut or injure. The Manjhis are divided into five exogamous subdivisions, known as Poiya, Tekam or Tekma, Marai, Oika or Waika and Olku, each of which includes a number of totemistic septs and is said to have been derived from a Gond who had five sons. As regards religion, they are still in a great measure free from the yoke of Brahmanism. The exorcism of ghosts and devils, the discovery of witches and the like are in the hands of the Baiga, while domestic ceremonies are in the hands of the Patari. They do not worship all ghosts, but believe that all disease is due to them. Many curious stories attach to ghosts. Thus Turkin, a deified Muhammadan female ghost, who lives on the Jungel hill south of the Son, and Barwat, a small ghost who lives on the Aundi hill, are sister and brother and rule all the

* There were 81 Manjhis separately recorded at the census of 1901, apparently by error.

† In Bilaspur.

‡ The same as Maru, probably, in Bilaspur.

mountain ghosts in that part of the country. In a stream called Sukandar, a tributary of the Kanhar, on the Sarguja boundary, there is a deep water-hole supposed to be of unknown depth. In the middle of this is a mound on which grows a *kurlu* tree. When ghosts become troublesome, the Ojha searches for a piece of deer horn in the jungle: this he hammers with a stone into the tree, and thus shuts up the ghost. There is another river named the Kurso in Sarguja which is also infested by water-ghosts; and to these the Baiga does sacrifice that there may be good rain, productive harvests, and that epidemics may not visit the village. In Sarguja, there are two noted caves, one on the Marcha and the other on the Banka hill. In the former lives a male deity called *Mahadani Deo,* and in the latter a demon of the *Dano* species. Her name is unknown, but she brings pain and disease and is of a very violent temper. On the Ahlor hill in Sarguja lives the ghost of an Ahir named Bachhraj Kunwar, a malignant godling, while his wife lives on the Jhoba hill in the same locality. Similarly, on the Maura hill in Singrauli lives a demon known as Dariapat Deo; and on the Chainpur hill, in Dudhi, Mirga Rani and Kota Rani. A similar deity worshipped by the Manjhis is Raja Chandol, who has already been described. In common with the Korwas and many other tribes of this part, the Manjhis venerate the *karam* tree and have a dance connected with it. The legend attached to it is as follows. There were seven brothers of the Majhwar tribe who lived together. The six elder ones used to go out to work, while the younger one stopped at home to cook the food. He used to get his six sisters-in-law to cook it, and when it was ready would take it to his brothers in the fields. This youngest brother was in the habit of planting a branch of the *karam* tree in the courtyard, and of dancing before it with his six sisters-in-law. Now this delayed the cooking and one day the elder brothers, coming home unexpectedly, found them so engaged, tore up the tree in anger and threw it into the river. At this the younger brother was enraged and left the house. Then everything went wrong with him, till he saw the *karam deota* floating along the river. He tried to draw near to it, but a voice from the branch sternly forbade him to approach, because he was a sinner. He then propitiated the golding by prayer, and was directed to go home. On his return he

found everything that had been evil on his former journey changed. Even the family house, which had fallen into ruins, and his brothers, who had been reduced to great poverty, were restored to their former state. He accordingly called his brothers together and told them that their misfortunes had fallen on them because they had dishonoured the *karam deota*. Since that time the deity has been worshipped by the tribe.

Kharwars. The Kharwars number 15,442 persons, the majority of whom are in Robertsganj: but a few are also found in Chakia. The name of the clan is derived, on local authority, either from their occupation as makers of catechu from the *khair* tree or from their traditional seat, Khairagarh. According to Santal legends, the two tribes Kharwar and Santal are identical, and, if this is accepted, Khairagarh must be the place of that name in the district of Hazaribagh. The Mirzapur tradition seems to point, however, to some place of the same name to the south or west, in which case Khairagarh must be identified with the state of that name in Chhattisgarh or with the Khairagarh tahsil in Allahabad. In Chutia Nagpur the Kharwars declare their original seat to have been Rohtas, so called from its having been the chosen abode of king Rohitaswa, son of king Haris Chandra of the family of the Sun. Considering themselves to be of the same family as their chief, some of them call themselves Surajbansis: others say they are a mixed race that originated in the time of king Ben and call themselves Benbansi Rajputs. Of all the aboriginal tribes of the district, they are the most deeply tinged with Hinduism. In appearance the more advanced numbers of the tribe are in strong contrast to the primitive families. The former have received some admixture of Hindu blood, but the real Kharwars have a distinctive appearance of their own. The hair is black and straight, the form of the face is more oval, and the nose and lips are thinner than is the case with the other hillmen, the Chero, who has more regular features, alone excepted. "There is nothing peculiar in the skull, but a slight depression from the extremities to the eyes and downwards gives a height to the cheeks and a protrusion but closeness to the lips, imparting an expression of shyness, for which the Kharwar is noted. The chest is rather narrow, the abdomen large, the limbs long and flat, the gait erect, but both fingers and toes disproportionately

heavy."* Their internal tribal organization differs in different parts of the district, but throughout they seem to have shed off the elaborate organization of totem septs. North of the Son there are four exogamous subdivisions known as Surajbansi, Dualbandhi, Patbandhi and Benbansi; and one endogamous subdivision called the Khairaha.† The origin of the first name has already been indicated, while of that of the fourth there are two accounts. One is that this subdivision is descended from a *Ben*, which means a bamboo, and which some of them will not cut. Others derive it from Raja Ben or Vena, the early type of the insolent opponent of the religion established by the Rishis. Both these subdivisions have made rapid strides in the directon of acquiring the rank of Rajputs; and while the former is represented by the Rajas of Ramgarh and Jashpur in Bengal, the head of the latter is the Raja of Singrauli in Mirzapur. The Dualbandhis say that their name is derived from *dual*, a leather belt, because they were once soldiers: and the Patbandhis declare they are so called because they were once very rich and wore silk (*pat*). These four subdivisions are exogamous and intermarry on terms of equality, though hypergamy is advancing in favour. The Khairaha, on the other hand, are said to derive their name from the *khair* tree, the juice of which they extract. The occupation is considered disreputable, and the members of this subdivision do not intermarry with those of the other four. South of the Son, in Dudhi, only two subdivisions, the Dualbandhi and Patbandhi, are recognized; but in Singrauli there are seven, consisting of the Bhogta or Bhugta, the Kharchurwa, the Chikchickwa and the Pradhan, in addition to the Patbandhi, Dualbandhi and Surajbansi already described. The Kharchurwa appears to be identical with the Khairaha. The Kharwars call themselves Hindus, but they do not worship any of the usual Hindu gods, except the Sun, to whom they appeal in times of trouble, and to whom the householder bows when he leaves his house in the morning. Their tribal deities are Jualamukhi Devi and Raja Lakhan: the former's shrine is at Kota in the Singrauli valley, and she is not to be confounded with the more famous deity of the same name who is worshipped at

* *Calcutta Review*, LXIX, p. 356.

† There were 88 Khairahas separately recorded at the census of 1901 as a distinct caste.

Nagarkot in the Kangra valley. Other local deities are Mahadeva, Raja Chandol and Dharti Mata, or mother earth, who is usually reverenced in association with the collective village gods in the month of Baisakh. Kharwars of the better class have, among other Hindu customs, adopted that of presenting offerings to the manes of the dead (*shraddha*). This ceremony, as that of the worship of Mahadeva, is usually performed by a low class of Tiwari Brahmans, who also officiate at marriages.

Bayars. Next on the list come Bayars, numbering 11,685 persons. As a caste they are practically confined to the Benares division: four-fifths of the total are in Mirzapur, and of these the majority are to be found in Chunar tahsil. The Bayars are a tribe of labourers and cultivators: the word *biar* means a seed bed and this may be the origin of the name, for their principal occupation is rice cultivation and the construction of tanks and embankments. The tribe may be of aboriginal stock; but it appears to be now very mixed, and the members are not noticeably different from the Chamars and other menial Hindu castes which surround them. They consider themselves autochthones of pargana Barhar in Mirzapur and have no traditions of immigration. They are slight, dark, wiry men noted for their skill in earthwork and habitually employed on excavations of all kinds. In Mirzapur they have now formed themselves into two endogamous divisions, the Barhariya, who take their name from pargana Barhar, north of the Son, and the Dakkhinaha or southerners, who live south of that river. Their special deity is Mahadeva in the form of a *lingam*. As local deities they worship Sewanriya, the deity of boundaries, and Dharti Mahadeva, the earth-god. The former has a shrine on the village boundary, consisting of a mud platform under a *semal, bahera* or *pipal* tree: a small red flag marks the shrine, near which are placed images of elephants. In the name of Dharti and Mahadeva two stone pillars are set up in the ground on the outskirts of the village. The Bayars are a very quiet, respectable race, and are very seldom seen in the courts.

Binds. Next follow Binds with 9,924 representatives, chiefly in Chunar tahsil. They are a non-Aryan tribe, nearly all of whom are to be found in the Benares and Gorakhpur divisions. They have no

traditions of emigration from any other part of the country, and one legend makes them descendants of the same stock as Kewats, Mallahs, Lunias, Paskewatas, Kuchbandhiyas and Musahars. The Binds are almost completely Hinduised, and in Mirzapur their favourite deity is Mahadeva: they also make annual pilgrimages to Baijnath in Shahabad, where they pour Ganges water over the *lingam*. They, however, believe in the usual omens and demonology, and practice sorcery through the Ojha. Their patron deity is Kashi Baba: he is a maleficent spirit who sends a murrain on cattle and represents a deified Brahman who was murdered because he was suspected of causing such visitations. Binds are for the most part agricultural labourers; but they also work at fishing, well-sinking, building mud walls, mat and basket making, and preparing saltpetre.

According to the returns of the last census the Gonds numbered 7,611 persons, but it is not certain whether these are true Gonds such as are found in the Central Provinces, or belong for the most part to the tribe of domestic servants, stone-cutters, or grain parchers, called Gonr, residing in the eastern districts of the province. There are probably few of the real Gond race in Mirzapur, that tribe being represented by the Majhwars and Kharwars, who are almost certainly an offshoot of the Gonds and still preserve much of their tribal organization. No further details are therefore necessary regarding them. Another caste which is confined to the eastern parts of the province, and has a larger number of representatives in Mirzapur than in any other district, is the Dharkar: in 1901 they numbered 6,550 persons. They are really a subcaste of the eastern Doms, and are also known as Bentbansis, because they work in cane (*bent*). To the whole tribe the bamboo is a sort of totem and is treated with great respect. They call themselves Hindus, but have a special pantheon of their own, the functions of which are exceedingly vague. Pahar Pando is a sort of mountain god. Durasin, Banhiya Bir and Deo Nath are deified heroes or tribal worthies. Angarmati Bhawani, the goddess of the blazing charcoal, is a vague female divinity. Further north, towards the Ganges, they worship Birtiya, a guardian godling, Dulha Deo and the Panchon Pir, especially Parihar. No Dharkar was ever known to read and write; they have a very strong tribal council, and very seldom come before the courts.

Gonds and Dharkars.

Cheros. More interesting and historically more important are the Cheros, numbering 5,933 persons, all but a few of whom live in tahsil Robertsganj. They are undoubtedly of Dravidian stock, and are probably a branch of the well-known Kol tribe, with whom they enjoy *connubium*. As they exist to-day the Cheros are a race of labourers and cultivators, but in the district of Shahabad they are said to have once been rulers of the country extending from Charanadri, the modern Chunar, to Giridih, and from the Ganges to the hills which form the boundary of south Bihar, including the entire extent of the country in the Patna division south of the Ganges. They entered Palamau in 1612 A.D. and ruled that district for nearly two hundred years till they were expelled by the British. Their last famous men were two robbers, Nora and Kora. Armed with bows and climbing for refuge, when pursued, to the lofty cray of Mangeswar, these two committed many daring robberies and murders; they were not captured until 1858, when they were both executed. The Cheros vary in colour, but are usually of a light-brown complexion. They have as a rule high cheek-bones, small eyes obliquely set, and eyebrows to correspond, low broad noses and large mouths with protuberant lips. In Mirzapur they are popularly known as Baigas. North of the Son the Cheros' great god is Gansam Deo, but in Dudhi they are mostly ancestor worshippers. Raja Chandol and Bariyar Sah are other local gods whom they venerate. The latter was a Rakhsel Rajput, a member of the royal family in Sarguja. Taking possession of Mahuli in tappa Pulwa, he lived on what is known as the *sona pahar* or "golden mountain." He was killed by a certain Bhuiya, Bhawani Singh, Raja of Nagar, and his wife became *sati* on the *sona pahar*.

Pankhas. After Cheros come Pankhas with 4,824 representatives. They are a low tribe, the men of which work as weavers and are employed as watchmen, living in the south of the district, and are known indifferently as Panka, Panika or Pankya, and Kotwar,* the last of which means "keeper or porter of a castle." The name Panka or Panika is usually taken to be derived from *panik*, which means the elastic bow which the weaver uses to extend the cloth as it is woven. Though they have lost in

* There were 53 Kotwars separately recorded at the census of 1901.

Mirzapur their totemistic septs, still their appearance clearly indicates their connection with Dravidian races like the Majhwars. They profess a sort of bastard Hinduism: their two great festivals are the *Holi* and *Dasami* or *Dasahra*; but they in no way follow Hindu usage on these festivals, and offer a burnt offering to the marriage god, Dulha Deo, who is represented by a piece of rudely cut stone on a mud platform. They observe the Nagpanchami festival and are much afraid of evil spirits, which are commonly supposed to reside in *mahua*, *pipal* or *bargad* trees.

The Baiswar, who number 1,943 persons, are of doubtful origin. According to their own account they are Rajputs of the famous Bais stock of Dhaundia Khera, descended from two brothers who after being condemned to death escaped into Rewah and received estates from the Rajas of these parts. They are now, however, endogamous and have no connection with Baiswara. Their tribal worship is conducted at a temple of Bhawani in Bardi, the south-eastern division of Rewah, abutting on Mirzapur; and it is very doubtful if they have really any Rajput blood, for they are dark and have much of the characteristic look of the Dravidian races by whom they are surrounded. Besides this, their subdivisions, some of which are totemistic, point to a non-Aryan origin. They rank, however, as respectable high caste Hindus, and are either landholders or tenants with occupancy rights; while, in matters of religion, they principally worship Devi through Brahmans and the local gods through the Baiga. Baiswar.

The total number of Bhuiyas in 1901 was 1,599: they are a Dravidian tribe, and all were returned as living in tahsil Mirzapur. They claim descent from the sons of two *Rishis*, known as Bhad and Mahesh, and for this reason often call themselves Rishasan Bhuiyas. The Mirzapur legends assert their kinship with the Musahars and Bhuinyars; but these claim to be distinct tribes. From the latter, however, they can only be distinguished with very great difficulty, and are doubtless closely connected with them. The Bhuiyas call themselves Hindus. Their chief deity is the Hindu Kali, who has doubtless succeeded some aboriginal goddess; but they also worship, through the Baiga, the village gods and Dharti Mata. They have a special tribal hero named Nadu Bir.* Bhuiyas.

* For an account of him *vide* Crooke: *Tribes and Castes*, Vol. II, p. 81.

Most Bhuiyas are hereditary serf ploughmen, but some are makers of catechu and are hence known as Khairahas. They are a quiet, industrious, simple and confiding people.

Dhangars. A Dravidian tribe found in some of the districts in the east of the province, but principally in Mirzapur, is that of Dhangars. At the last census, 1,261 representatives were enumerated in the district. Local tradition has it that the tribe emigrated from a place called Barwai, somewhere in the south, about 300 years ago. They say that they occupied a narrow valley called Sathorwa, where they used to beset and rob travellers, till an imperial general made terms with their leaders, Jura Mehto and Buddhu Bhagat. By the promise of a rent-free estate he induced them to lay down their arms, and then treacherously ordered a general massacre. The few survivors escaped to Mirzapur. These two leaders, Jura and Buddhu, are the deified heroes of the tribe. The Dhangars are nominally Hindus, but worship none of the regular Hindu deities. They venerate the *deohar*, or collection of village gods, through the Baiga; but the special objects of their veneration are Barna Bhawani and Goraiya Deva: the latter is the god of cattle. Generally they work as ploughmen; but they are as a rule little better than a miserable, depressed tribe of field serfs very clannish and afraid of strangers.

Bhuinyars. The Bhuinyars are another Dravidian tribe found in the hill country of south Mirzapur, and in 1901 numbered 3,870 souls. They are also known as Beonriha from *beonra*, a local term for the *dhaiya* system of cultivation. Their traditions of origin are very vague. They speak of a place called Bhaunrodah as their original head quarters, but of this they known nothing more than that it is somewhere to the south. They call themselves Hindus; but their tribal god is Siwanriya, the deity of boundaries and some worship Dharti Mata or mother earth and some Mahadeva. They do not keep priests of any other tribe and have no regular temple; while ancestor worship is carried out by the head of the family, who also, if as is usually the case, he is a Baiga, performs similar functions to Mahadeva, Dharti Mata and Siwanriya. They have nothing to say to Brahmans for whom they entertain a contempt, and most Bhuinyars are Baigas—in fact one general name for the tribe is Baiga, and they officiate in this capacity for other tribes besides their own. The Bhuinyars are among the

wildest of the aboriginal tribes. Their usual occupation is the cutting of wood and bamboos, collecting silk cocoons, lac, dyes and other jungle products. It is only quite recently that they have taken to eating anything but jungle fruits. They are still expert with the bow and arrow.

There were 2,101 Bhurtiyas recorded in the United Provinces at last census, all of whom were in Mirzapur; but in 1891 there were only 423 returned, all of whom were enumerated in the Allahabad district. Possibly some confusion has taken place, for they claim to be an offshoot of the Ahirs, whom indeed they closely resemble in appearance and customs. The origin of the name is very uncertain, and little is known about them: in ordinary life they are respectable, industrious people, and make their livelihood by cultivation and rearing cattle. **Bhurtiyas.**

Peculiar to Mirzapur again are the Agarias, numbering 1,186, who confine themselves almost entirely to mining and smelting iron. They approximate very closely to and are probably connected with other Dravidian tribes such as the Korwas and Parahiyas, but they have a particularly gaunt appearance and worn expression of countenance, which is probably the result of the severe occupation which they follow. They say that about 100 years ago they emigrated to Mirzapur from Rewah, having heard. that they could carry on their business in peace in British territory, Their former head quarters were at the village of Rajaura in Rewah and their first settlement in Mirzapur was in that of Khairahi in pargana Dudhi. They do not, however, make any pilgrimages to their original settlement or draw their priests or tribal officials from there. They worship none of the regular Hindu deities, but make offerings through the Baiga to the village gods in *Aghan*, and in *Pus* to their tribal deity, Lohasur Devi, the goddess of iron. The Agarias practically do no agriculture. The system of iron forging practiced by them has already been described. **Agarias.**

There were 850 Pahris separately recorded in the Mirzapur district at the census of 1901 out of a provincial total of 1,590, all being in the Benares division. The Pahri is not a district tribe but is a subdivision of either Pasis, Doms or Dusadhs. It is uncertain to which of these castes the Pahris of Mirzapur belonged, but they were probably Pasis and were found for the most part in Chunar tahsil. **Pahris.**

Korwas. Though numerically inconsiderable, the Korwa is one of the most interesting of the aboriginal tribes of Mirzapur. According to the census returns of 1901 it only comprised 617 persons, all of whom are to be found in pargana Dudhi, especially along the Sarguja frontier. They assert that they have emigrated from Sarguja only within the last three or four generations, and this is substantiated by the fact that at the census of 1891 they only numbered 33 souls. The Korwas appear to be the aborigines of Sarguja, Jashpur and Palamau, and the priests who propitiate the local spirits are always selected thence. There is little doubt that in name and origin they are closely connected with the Kurs, and like them they have some traditions connecting them with the Mahadeo hills in Berar as the first seat of their race. Their appearance is particularly wild and uncouth, and is accounted for by themselves by the following folk tale. The first inhabitants of Sarguja, being much troubled by the depredations of wild beasts in their crops, put up figures made of bamboos as scarecrows in their fields, which were the most hideous caricatures of humanity that they could devise. When the great spirit saw these, he bethought him to save his votaries the trouble of having again to reconstruct them. He animated the dangling figures, thus bringing into existence creatures ugly enough to frighten all the birds and beasts in creation. These were the ancestors of the Korwas. They do not pretend to be Hindus; and neither their religious nor their social ceremonies are tainted in any degree with the intricate ritual of Hinduism. They worship as their tribal god Raja Chandol in *Phagun*; and they are much beset by malignant ghosts, particularly those of strange villages, which have to be excluded by the Baiga.

Patharis. The Patharis or Pataris who were separately recorded to the number of 542 souls are really a branch of the Majhwar tribe. They say that they and the Majhwars are descended from seven brothers, the youngest of whom was compelled by the six others to become the family priest. The word Pathari is synonymous with Pradhan and is also a sept of the Raj Gonds of the Central Provinces, among whom it performs functions similar to those of the Pathari of Mirzapur. A Majhwar must be attended as his priest by a Pathari of the same sept as his own. The result of this arrangement is that the parishioners or constituents of a Pathari

are scattered over a large area, and he has to undertake long journeys in order to pay his periodical visits. Although the Patharis are the family priests of the Majhwars, their position is a decidedly low one in the social scale. No Majhwar will eat with them or drink water from their hands. The Pathari is, moreover, looked upon with contempt as a beggar, and is discredited because he takes the clothes and other property of the dead man which are given to him in the belief that he will pass them on for the use of the deceased in the next world.

The Ghasias are another Dravidian tribe of south Mirzapur, and number only 345 persons. Nothing very definite is known concerning their origin, but one legend makes them of common origin with Kols, Bhuinyars and Santals. The clear distinction that now prevails between them and the neighbouring tribes appears to be of comparatively modern growth, but, unlike many of the kindred tribes, they have retained a complete set of totemistic septs. They call themselves Hindus, but their religion is of a very irregular type. Sometimes they worship Mahadeva, but the boundary deity, Siwana, Dulha Deo and an obscure tribal godling called *Chhat Baba* or "lord of the sixth," are among the objects of their reverence. They employ Baigas for most ceremonies, and are greatly in fear of evil spirits. As regards social status, they are in a very inferior scale. They will not do degrading occupations in which they class shoemaking, and they generally work as grooms and keepers of elephants. **Ghasias.**

There were in 1901 only 234 Parahiyas recorded. The tribe is of Dravidian origin, and fixes its head quarters in the villages of Jhansi and Uspar in the Sarguja state close to the British frontier. The Parahiyas of Mirzapur have emigrated thence in quite recent times, and emigration is still going on; while for the festivals of the *Ram Naumi* and *Dasahra*, they still go to their original home. In appearance, they are a wild looking set of stunted creatures, about five feet three inches in height. Their worship is of a non-Aryan type, and is offered to the *dih* or collection of village gods, a female deity called Sairi Devi and Dharti Mata or mother earth. The Parahiyas make a living principally by cutting and selling wood and bamboo, and by collecting and exchanging forest produce such as lac. They are miserable people, living in little huts, **Parahiyas.**

apart from each other, along the hills, with little clan feeling or tribal organization.

Bargahis. The only remaining Hindu caste which requires mention is the Bargahi. According to the census returns of 1901 these, though not confined to Mirzapur, were more numerous in this district than in any other. Their total number, however, is only 213 and the bulk of these are in tahsil Mirzapur. They are really a caste of personal servants and makers of leaf platters, who trace their origin to Kanauj and say they emigrated with the Gaharwar Rajputs to the latter place: their women act as wet-nurses.

Musalmans. The last census showed representatives of 40 different castes in the district, while 438 persons belonged to no specified subdivision. Only two of these had over 10,000 members apiece, the Julahas and Sheikhs, who together made up 45·8 per cent. of the whole. Two other castes occured in numbers exceeding 5,000 and three more amounted to over 2,000 in each case. Very few of them are of any interest or importance ; most of them have their Hindu counterparts, and only one is found in unusual numbers.

Julahas. In the first place come Julahas, of whom there were 20,453 or 28·21 per cent. of the Musalman community. They are found in fair numbers in all tahsils, but are actually most numerous in **Sheikhs.** Korh and Mirzapur. They are followed by Sheikhs with 12,805 representatives, who are in greatest strength in Mirzapur tahsil: as usual they belong to the most part to the Qurreshi and Siddiqi **Behnas.** subdivisions. Next come Behnas, to the number of 8,585 ; like Julahas these reside chiefly in Korh and Mirzapur. Their occupation is a kindred one to that of Julahas, and they are usually found **Other Musalmans.** in close proximity to them. Pathans, of whom there were 7,327, exist for the most part in Mirzapur city ; while Darzis, 3,366 ; Nais, 2,708 ; and Faqirs, 2,656, are distributed over all tahsils. The only Musalman caste which deserves a more detailed mention is the Kingriya ; there were 804 of them recorded in Mirzapur at the last census, a number which exceeds that of any other district. The Kingriyas are a tribe of dancers and singers, the name being derived from *kingri*, a kind of two-stringed gourd lute which they play. They are also known as Panwariyas from *panwara*, or the carpet, on which they sit when they perform. They say that they

came from a place in the west and settled in Bijaipur. There were also 34 Bankhatas separately recorded in 1901, but these are only a sept of the Kingriyas and derive their name from their custom of cutting their arms in order to extort charity. The Kingriyas are Muhammadans of the Sunni sect and venerate Ghazi Mian, while some also make an occasional sacrifice to Kali Bhawani. They attend the houses of rich Hindus and Muhammadans when a son is born and sing the *sohar* or song of rejoicing. Generally they wander about from house to house, begging and singing. A few cultivate, but in a careless, unthrifty manner. There are only 558 Musalman Rajputs recorded : they are for the most part of the Gaharwar family in pargana Kera-Mangraur. Altogether the Muhammadans form an insignificant portion of the population, and the only Muhammadan building of note is the *dargah* of Shah Qasim Sulaimani at Chunar, of which a description will be found in the article on that place.

Occupations. The majority of the people are dependent more or less directly on agriculture for a means of support, and the returns of last census show that no less than 73·78 per cent. of the people were agriculturists, a figure that considerably exceeds the provincial average of 65·4. The industrial population amounted to 13·02 per cent.—a fairly average proportion. This class includes all those engaged in the preparation and supply of material substances, of which articles of food and drink accounted for over one-third and textile fabrics and cognate trades a little over one-fifth. Of the remainder of this class, workers in metals and precious stones amounted to 15·07 per cent. ; this proportion is high, and is due to the extensive brass industry of Mirzapur. Besides this, 6·33 were workers in glass and pottery, 4·43 per cent. in drugs, gums and dyes, and 4·39 per cent. in wood and cane. General labour, other than agricultural, made up 4·31 per cent. of the whole, and personal and domestic service 3·10 per cent. Next come commerce, transport and storage with 2·84 per cent ; and those engaged in administration, whether civil or military, 1·08 per cent. The small remainder comprised the people who had means of subsistence independent of occupation, ·96 per cent. and the professional population, ·91 per cent.

Language. The speech of the majority of the population is Bihari, which is also the common tongue of the districts to the north and east.

The returns of the last census show that this language was spoken by 62·8 per cent. of the population; and the dialect in vogue is that known as western Bhojpuri. Practically this is the common speech of the whole tract lying north of the Son river; but in pargana Bhadohi the language appears rather to be Awadhi, similar to that spoken in eastern Allahabad. In Sonpar the aboriginal tribes have now almost entirely given up the use of their own language and adopted in its place the Bagheli variety of eastern Hindi. Altogether 35·9 per cent. of the people were returned at last census as speaking eastern Hindi, while 56 persons were reported to employ gipsy dialects, presumably for the most part Korwari of the Munda or Kolarian family. Western Hindi was the language of 10,696 persons, chiefly Musalmans in the towns, while the remaining forms were not indigenous, but spoken by immigrants. Thus 300 persons spoke English, 230 Bengali, 264 Rajasthani, and in a few cases the mother tongue was Mathi, Gujarati and Punjabi.

Literature. The district has no local literature of its own, nor are there any historic names connected with it. It possesses, however, some lithographic and three printing presses, namely the *Khichri Samachar*, *Anand Kadambini* and the "Legal Remembrancer." The proprietor of the first is also the editor of a newspaper, which purports to appear weekly, but as a matter of fact is only issued once or twice a year. Its contents, as a rule, consist merely of extracts from other native papers or translations from their English contemporaries. Two newspapers issue from the *Anand Kadambini* press, one in Hindi and the other in English, known respectively as the *Anand Kadambini* and the *Poet*. The former contains miscellaneous matter on all subjects and the latter publishes mostly poetry; while the *Kavya Nala-Nidhi*, which is printed at Benares but published at Mirzapur, also contains mostly poetry. The "Legal Remembrancer" press confines itself to the ordinary work of contract printing.

Proprietary rights. Proprietary tenures in Mirzapur are much the same as in other permanently settled districts and present few peculiar features. Practically they originated with the settlement, for before that date they had been extinguished by Raja Balwant Singh. Proprietors of the soil, men whose title to it depended on the

incontestable fact that they or their ancestors had reclaimed the soil from waste, existed in every village, but it was the deliberate policy of Balwant Singh to reduce them to the position of tenants. His contributions were exacted from the tillers of the soil in each village and were collected by *amils* who engaged for a certain sum of money to be paid into the Raja's coffers; these *amils* were sometimes the leading men in a pargana, sometimes mere rapacious publicans introduced from outside, and sometimes the headmen of villages who engaged for the payment of the revenue for the village. When the settlement of 1788-89 was made, one of the greatest difficulties encountered was the selection of persons from whom engagements should be taken. Mr. Duncan at first intended to effect a settlement with the cultivators of the soil direct and to realize the revenue, which was then considered to be merely the share of the state in the gross produce of each field, through *amils* appointed by himself. But the permanent settlement was eventually made with the village *zamindars* as far as possible. In many cases the village *zamindar* recognized was the single person who engaged for the payment of the revenue, having been able by force, fraud or other means, to raise himself above the other members of the community to a position to which he was not entitled. In other cases the *zamindar* recognized was merely the farmer of the revenue, who had succeeded in establishing his claims to be considered such by long tenure of the office. In both these classes of cases the village communities lost their character; and it was only in those cases in which settlement was effected with the whole proprietary body through their representatives that the *pattidari* or *bhaiyachara* tenure, as it is now known, survived. Many of these, however, subsequently disappeared when estates were sold up for the default of a single *lambardar* or were handed over bodily to outsiders owing to the inability of the community to pay the revenue demand. In Mirzapur, moreover, the rights of the community in the soil of the village were over-ridden in many cases by the restitution of large landholders, such as the Rajas of Kantit and Agori-Barhar, to extensive *taluqas*. It is not surprising therefore to find that at the present day estates owned by single proprietors preponderate in this district. Excluding the Dudhi

Government estate and the Family Domains of the Maharaja of Benares both of which require separate treatment, there are 3,260 villages in the district, and these are divided into 4,170 *mahals*. Of the latter 1,642 are held at the present time in single *zamindari* and 1,125 in joint *zamindari* tenure. There are 1,403 *pattidari* estates, out of which 1,134 are held in imperfect *pattidari* tenure, the remainder being perfect *pattidari*. Single *zamindari* tenure needs no explanation; but the proprietors of the joint *zamindari* estates are either members of the same family with which the original settlement was made or are descendants or representatives of the first purchasers; and although with the natural increase of families the number of co-sharers has also largely increased, the lands of the villages are still held and managed in common. The number of perfect *pattidari* estates is small, and the number tends constantly to diminish as the road to partition becomes easier and the temptation to get rid of the disadvantages of joint responsibility gets stronger. In most of the imperfect *pattidari* estates the distribution of the profits, as well as the apportionment of the village responsibilities, is regulated by the number of *biswas* and parts of *biswas* representing the interest of each co-sharer. The *bhaiyachara* tenure is unknown, but there is still a number of estates classed as imperfect *pattidari* in which the amount of the land actually held by the sharer is the measure of his interest or liability. Owing to the absence of records in the bulk of the district it is only possible to compare the figures of *mahals* in the Gangetic valley with those of an earlier date. From the returns compiled at the revision of records between 1879 and 1885 it appears that there has been no great increase in the subdivision of property in that portion of the district, only 292 new *mahals* having been created during the years that have since elapsed. This compares favourably with many of the temporarily settled districts in the province, where large estates have become minutely subdivided, and the reason is twofold. In the first place much of the land is held by single large proprietors whose estates are seldom or never subdivided but descend intact from father to son; and in the second place the revenue demand of the permanent settlement is now so easily payable that, in spite of a dense population, minute subdivision of cultivatory holdings has not become a

necessity. Single *zamindari* estates are relatively more numerous in tahsils Mirzapur and Robertsganj, especially in tappas Chiyanve and Upraudh, where the Raja of Kantit owns much of the land, and in parganas Agori, Bijaigarh and Singrauli, in which the Rajas of Agori-Barhar and Singrauli have their estates. Joint *zamindari mahals* are most frequent in parganas Qariat Sikhar and Bhagwat, but are common in most subdivisions except Saktesgarh; *pattidari* estates are commonest in tappa Kon.

The Dudhi Government estate. The Dudhi Government estate consists of the four tappas of Dudhi, Pulwa, Barhar and Gonda Bajia. It contains 240 villages which are grouped into 151 *mahals*; these, with the exception of the 70 villages in Gonda Bajia comprised in 16 *mahals* and the village of Hirachak in Pulwa, are held in a tenure known as *sapurdari*. This tenure is unknown elsewhere in the United Provinces and can only be explained by tracing in brief outline the fiscal history of the Dudhi tappas. These tappas were occupied about 1660 A. D. by a tribe known as the Bhuiyas, and remained uninterruptedly in their possession till the beginning of the nineteenth century, when Raja Udwant Singh of Singrauli deprived them of their possession. Ever since their first acquisition the tappas had been regarded as an appanage of Nagar Untari in Palamau, which had been granted revenue-free to the Bhuiyas for services rendered either to Sher Shah Sur or the Mughals; and the grant had been confirmed by the British Government when it obtained possession of the district of Ramgarh-Nagar-Untari. The existence of the tappas, however, appears to have been at first concealed from the British authorities, for no villages of Dudhi, Pulwa or Barhar (including Gonda-Bajia) appeared in the register of revenue-free lands. How this came about is not known, but it was probably due to the representations of Udwant Singh, who put himself forward as manager of the Bhuiyas in 1808-09, and rendered one instalment of rent to his employers. The next year he discontinued payment and remained in independent possession of Dudhi and Barhar. Pulwa, however, which lay beyond the Kanhar river, fell a less easy prey to his ambition; for the Bhuiyas angrily resented his usurpation and attempted by reference to Major Roughsedge, Commandant of the Ramgarh

battalion, and by complaints in the criminal courts of Ramgarh to regain their lost possessions. But Udwant Singh managed year by year to evade Major Roughsedge's calls for explanation, until, in 1812, the latter directed that the *status quo* should be maintained until the dispute could be formally investigated and referred to the Governor General. As a result of further enquiries by Major Roughsedge, it was laid down that Dudhi and Barhar belonged to the Government, and Udwant Singh was called upon to surrender them. He, however, evaded giving a direct answer for some time and it was not until 1824 that he reluctantly promised to give up the disputed domains. Nothing came of the engagement as Udwant Singh died the same year and his son, Chhatar Singh, almost immediately after attempted to seize possession of Pulwa. He was stubbornly resisted by Tej Singh, the successor of Bhawani Singh, the Bhuiya chief, and this fresh disturbance led to an inquiry by Colonel Gilbert, political agent at Hazaribagh. His decision, given in 1827 after two years' delay, left the dispute where it was before and directed that, until otherwise ordered by the Governor General, Dudhi and Barha should continue in possession of the Singrauli Raja and Pulwa in that of Tej Singh. Against this award the Singrauli Raja at once appealed to Calcutta. Tej Singh retorted by informing the Collector of Ramgarh that 22 villages of Pulwa were liable to assessment. The Commissioner of Patna decided that these villages had been included in the permanent settlement of Singrauli; and shortly afterwards Chhatar Singh was placed formally in possession of Pulwa. Thus by 1830 the Singrauli Raja obtained complete and undisputed possession of the Dudhi tappas.

The Raja's dealings with the tenantry, which had hitherto been patriarchal, now became violent. He reduced the occupants of the land to the position of tenants-at-will; and the disturbances that ensued necessitated the establishment of a police outpost as Singrauli. During 1842 and the following years the first survey of Singrauli and Dudhi was effected by Major Robert Wroughton. Then followed a preparation of a record-of-rights by a deputy collector especially detailed for the duty. To his ccurt the residents of Dudhi flocked to unfold their complaints.

This officer appears never to have crossed the Son; his subordinates, who were sent to adjust some boundary disputes, did nothing; and some of his own judgements regarding disputed tenures were reversed in 1844 as *ultra vires.* Quarrels between the Raja and his tenantry now broke out afresh and in 1847 a special officer, Mr. W. Roberts, with powers of a settlement officer, was deputed to finish the deputy collector's work. In December 1849 Mr. Roberts submitted his first report on the Dudhi tappas. His enquiries led to the re-opening of the whole question of the Singrauli Raja's title to Dudhi and Barha. He found that the Raja defended his right to possession on two separate pleas—firstly, that his ancestors had granted the tappas to the Bhuiyas on service tenure and that, owing to some default of service, the territory had reverted to the representatives of the grantors, and secondly, that the tappas had been included in Mr. Duncan's permanent settlement of Singrauli. No written evidence was forthcoming in support of the first plea and the oral evidence produced broke down on cross-examination. The second was confuted by Mr. Duncan's own statement that he had, in 1792, settled with the Singrauli Raja only such country as was then in that chief's possession; and the Dudhi tappas were at that time in the possession of the Bhuiyas. A Persian order, purporting to be written by Major Roughsedge in 1816, strongly in favour of the Raja's claims to the lands in dispute was put in to support the claim, but this document was held to be forged. The result of Mr. Roberts's report was to show conclusively that the Singrauli Rajas had no proprietary right in the domain usurped by them some 40 years before. With the claim to Pulwa Mr. Roberts did not meddle, holding the Ramgarh Collector's decision of 1830 to be, although erroneous, final. No action was taken on the report for some years by the Government; and it was not until 1850 that it was decided to institute proceedings under Regulation II of 1819 in order to decide the question whether the three tappas had or had not been included in the permanent settlement. The fact that Pulwa had been legally won by fraudulent means in 1830 was deemed no reason for excluding it from enquiry. But it was thought necessary to over-rule the decision of the Ramgarh authorities on the ground that they had no jurisdiction, Pulwa

being in the Benares province. As a result of the inquiry thus instituted all three tappas were declared liable to assessment. An appeal lay to a special commissioner appointed under Regulation III of 1828; but no appeal was made within the prescribed two months, and the Raja's excuses for his omission were rejected by the Government on July 27th 1853. Thus the Dudhi tappas were left finally at the disposal of the Government.

It having been judicially determined that the three tappas were not included in the permanent settlement, the Raja now claimed a proprietary settlement with himself on the ground of lost possession. To support his claim he threatened a civil action; but all that Mr. Roberts and the Board of Revenue were disposed to allow him was a *malikana* or ousted landlord's allowance of 10 per cent. on the revenue. In this deadlock the question remained for several years, while Mr. Roberts proceeded with his settlement of Dudhi. The result of his proceedings between 1849 and 1856 was that the whole of tappa Gonda Bajia, then included in Barhar, and one village of Pulwa, namely Hirachak, were assessed with a demand that was apparently intended to be permanent, while the rest of the three tappas, 94 villages in all, was either farmed or settled in a summary manner. The principles observed in these summary assessments were that the settlement should be made with a resident of the neighbourhood, not with an outsider; and that five-eighths of the assets should be claimed as Government revenue. In June 1856 the Government at length announced its intentions respecting Dudhi. The tappas were to remain under *kham* or direct management. The Raja was to be allowed, as a matter of grace, a *malikana* of 10 per cent. on the collections which amounted at that time to about Rs. 3,000 yearly. For the management of the tappas a special covenanted officer was selected.

Tappa Gonda Bajia and the village of Hirachak were settled by Mr. Roberts with holders who, like the proprietors in permanently settled portions of the district, were termed *zamindars*. These *zamindars* managed to retain the status of owners at a fixed revenue for many years. Their position was examined by Mr. Pollock in 1871, who pointed out that, although Mr. Roberts probably intended his settlement with them to be permanent, any

such settlement was *ultra vires* and that the claims of these *zamindars* to proprietary rights were no stronger than those of the other occupants of Dudhi who had first cleared the virgin soil. As a result of Mr. Pollock's arguments Gonda Bajia and Hirachak were declared liable to re-assessment on the same terms as the other villages. The *zamindars* were paying at the time a very low revenue demand; but they had understood that they were proprietors and had spent a considerable sum of money in improving their villages. In these circumstances they were considered to be entitled to special treatment, and in 1875 it was laid down that "the owners" of Gonda Bajia and Hirachak should be styled *zamindars*. The remaining villages were summarily settled with resident cultivators of standing who were called *sapurdars*. Their position was defined in a Government resolution prescribing the principles of the settlement carried out between 1871 and 1876. In this it was laid down that "the only form in which rights and interests superior to those of cultivators can be recognized will be by the conferment of a position which will be very similar to that of a *patel* in the Bombay system, in so far as its holder will have the right of collecting rents and of receiving a percentage of the same. It will differ from it chiefly in this, that the arrangements for breaking up the waste lands will be in his hands. His proprietary rights will be confined to the fields constituting his own holding and the premises which he occupies in the village; and will be the same in kind as that of the other permanent *raiyats*; as the name *sapurdar* is familiar, it may be retained." At the present time *sapurdars* are of four classes, namely, old hereditary, new hereditary, non-hereditary and *kham* or probationary *sapurdars*. The first three classes are entitled to hold rent-free all the *sir* cultivation recorded in their names at settlement; while *kham sapurdars* hold similarly recorded *sir* at one-half of the village plough rate except in the villages of Nemiyadih, Deopura and Supachua where they hold at one-fourth of the village plough rate. All *sapurdars* receive a commission in the form of a percentage on the rent due from the cultivators in their villages and collected by them on behalf of the Government. In the case of old hereditary *sapurdars* this commission is 30 per cent. on the collections

from land cultivated by tenants in the year 1886 and 15 per cent. on new cultivation; while in the case of new-hereditary *sapurdars* and the *kham sapurdars* of Nemiyadih, Deopura and Supachua, the commission is 20 per cent. on the collections from land cultivated by tenants in the year 1886 and 10 per cent. on new cultivation. In the case of other *kham sapurdars* the rate is 10 per cent. on the total collections. The office of the old and new hereditary *sapurdars* is heritable, but not otherwise transferable; while in the case of non-hereditary and *kham sapurdars* the appointment is for the term of settlement and the office is neither heritable nor transferable. The office, moreover, is liable to forfeiture in the case of misconduct; but those who are classed as non-hereditary or *kham sapurdars* at one settlement have a claim to be raised at the next to the grade of hereditary or non-hereditary *sapurdars*, as the case may be, as a reward for successful management. Inheritance in the case of old and new hereditary *sapurdars* is limited to the eldest male descendant or, in default, the nearest male collateral who is fit for the office; otherwise the collector may appoint any person.

The tenures of the Family Domains.

Parganas Kera-Mangraur and Bhadohi, which constitute the portion of the Family Domains of the Maharaja of Benares in Mirzapur, contain 1,806 villages divided into 1,870 *mahals*. The former pargana is held in exclusive proprietary right by the Maharaja, but in Bhadohi there is a certain number of *mahals* the proprietary rights of which are held by a body of persons known as *manzuridars*, whose origin and position can only be explained by a recapitulation of the internal history of the pargana. Something has already been said regarding the settlement of the Monas Rajputs in Bhadohi, who ousted the Bhar occupants of the pargana and obtained possession of the land as *zamindars*, while leaving untouched the holdings of the Bisens and Brahmans which had been granted apparently by the Bhar Rajas. Nothing of importance occurred until the reign of Shahjahan, when Jodh Rai, a Monas, is said to have obtained from the emperor a *zamindari sanad* for the whole pargana. Jodh Rai was killed not long afterwards by the subahdar of Allahabad, and the emperor is said to have then given a fresh *sanad* for the pargana to Jodh Rai's widow who handed over the management to Madan Singh, her brother-in-law.

Whether this was so or not cannot be determined, but Madan Singh certainly succeeded in getting the whole of the pargana into his possession with the exception of the *mutafarriqa* villages which were assigned by royal decree to *qazis, qanungos* and others. Madan Singh seems to have been a powerful person and had five sons of whom only three, Zorawar Singh, Achal Singh and Gaj Singh, survived. The fact that these persons were recognized as owners of the soil is attested by their distribution of the pargana into 18 tappas and by their transference of parts of it, either as grants or for a consideration, to others. The three brothers all appear to have died about 1723 A. D. They left numerous descendants among whom, with the exception of one of the sons of Achal Singh who took as his share the family estates in pargana Kewai of the Allahabad district, the pargana of Bhadohi was divided. Jaswant Singh, the seventh of the sons of Zorawar Singh, was the most ambitious of the family. He gave his sister in marriage to Muhammad Khan Bangash, and in 1728 A. D. succeeded, with the assistance of that chief, in ousting all the rest of the family. He assumed charge of the whole pargana, established himself at Suriawan, and took the title of Raja. He did not, however, enjoy his power for long. His patron, Muhammad Khan, lost his influence and Ban Singh, grandson of Gaj Singh, who was a minor at the time of the usurpation, began to cast about for means of recovering his patrimony, and obtained assistance from Raja Prithipat Singh of Partabgarh. The latter had become security for Jaswant Singh, who had fallen into arrears with his revenue, which he was unable or unwilling to pay, and in the circumstances the Raja was not slow to listen to Ban Singh's entreaties. He led a considerable force against Jaswant Singh, attacked him in his fort at Suriawan, carried him off as a prisoner and made over the management of the pargana to the heirs of Achal Singh, Zorawar Singh and Gaj Singh, while still standing security for the revenue. Tappa Bargaon, which adjoins the pargana of Kaswar in Benares, was the share of Gaj Singh's descendants, represented first by Ban Singh and then by Sheobaksh Singh, and a *zamindari sanad* for it was granted in 1743 A. D. to Raja Balwant Singh, between whom and Sheobaksh Singh a friendship sprang up. This was the first connection of

the Benares Raja with pargana Bhadhoi. The next step was taken in 1748. Raja Prithipat Singh was on friendly terms with Balwant Singh and was becoming progressively more and more committed to assist the Monas proprietors who would not pay up their arrears. Accordingly Balwant Singh paid up the arrears for which Raja Prithipat was answerable, and in 1751 received the pargana in exchange. Having thus acquired possession of Bhadohi, Balwant caused the Monas *zamindars* to execute deeds of mortgage in his name by which he was recognized in possession, but they were secured in certain rights and privileges. Subsequently, however, as his power became more assured, he made over part of the pargana to Gautam clansmen of his own and part to a Bhagel chief, leaving Sheobaksh Singh in possession of tappa Bargaon and adding to the tappa the *mutafarriqa* villages. Balwant Singh's internal arrangements in Bhadohi appear to have remained unchanged for many years, and the agreements by which the administration of the pargana were transferred to the East India Company and by them to the Raja of Benares belong rather to the general history of the district. Even Mr. Duncan purposely refrained from interference and in 1794 it was expressly stipulated that the Bengal Regulations should not be extended to the Family Domains of the Raja. During all this time the influence of Rani Gulab Kunwar had been paramount in Bhadohi, the tenantry appear to have been little interfered with and the *malguzars* or *mustajirs*, as they were called, seem to have been leniently assessed. The Rani died in 1805 and the relations between the Raja and the people at once underwent a change for the worse. The principle now began to be actively asserted that the Raja was sole proprietor of the soil, the source from which alone all property within the limits of the pargana could be derived, and that he was at liberty to make, in regard to the revenue, such arrangements as he chose. In 1808-09 an increase was made in the demand which caused great dissatisfaction, and many complaints were preferred to the Collector under Regulation XV of 1795 which regulated the procedure in cases of grievance. The Collector, however, refused to interfere, and the complainants withdrew their complaints, agreeing to refer the matter for adjustment to one Gopinath, *qanungo.* But the

qanungo supported the Raja and the increased demand was secured without further opposition. At the same time 78 villages were taken out of the hands of the hereditary occupants. Five years later 24 more villages were similarly resumed, and the revenue was again raised by nearly Rs. 10,000. By 1822-23 an additional Rs, 41,000 more were being collected. A new settlement was made in this year, based on a careful measurement and minute enquiry into rent-rolls, and by the addition of various items the gross assets of the pargana were declared to be Rs. 7,56,888, out of which the Raja demanded Rs. 6,01,554 as his revenue, or about one and three-quarter lakhs in excess of the demand of Raja Mahip Narayan Singh. This proposal created grave and wide-spread discontent, and in 1826 when Lord Amherst, the Governor General, was proceeding on tour to the upper provinces, his camp at Dinapur was besieged by a large body of the discontented landholders of Bhadohi who followed him all the way to Cawnpore. Here their case was taken up and Mr. W. W. Bird was appointed as a special commissioner to enquire into their grievances and propose such measures as he might think best adapted for their redress. Mr. Bird's report was submitted in 1827, and in the following year he was directed to draw up a Regulation defining the rights and liabilities of the landholders of Bhadohi. This Regulation became Regulation VII of 1828 and received the sanction of the Governor General in September of the same year; but no action was taken under it, owing to the Raja's objections, until 1831, when Mr. Thornton was appointed deputy superintendent to adjust the balances, form a settlement with the proprietors, and decide appeals from the orders of the Commissioners appointed by the Raja to carry out the provisions of the Regulation. Mr. Thornton was succeeded in 1832 by Mr. Valpy, and, after enquiries and discussions extending over three years, subordinate or inferior proprietary rights were held to exist in 240¾ villages and the persons who had succeeded in proving them were designated *manzuridars*. In the remaining or *na-manzuri* villages the Raja is regarded as sole proprietor. In the *manzuri* villages 80 per cent. of the ascertained assets were declared to be payable to the Raja, the balance being left to the *manzuridars* as their profit and to cover the cost of collection. Since Mr. Valpy's

settlement, however, a considerable portion of the *manzuri* rights have been sold and bought in by the Raja. This process is constantly going on, and the tendency is towards total extinction of proprietary right. At the present time, 1,527 villages are *na-manzuri* or exclusively the property of the Raja; while in 125 others the Raja holds jointly with *manzuridars* or other sub-proprietors, the latter now retaining 154 only.

Subordinate tenures.

There are several forms of inferior right to be found in Mirzapur. The commonest is that known as *krishnarpan*, a term etymologically expressing an offering in propitiation of Krishna. Similar to this is the *shankalp* or *birt*. These do not, however, imply so much subordinate right but actual ownership. The *shankalapdar* is really a holder of land free of revenue since he pays nothing to the nominal *zamindar*, who takes it upon himself to meet the Government demand. Such holdings usually take the form of small plots given to Brahmans and others on religious or personal grounds and are not extensive. There are besides 50 villages in the large *taluqas* of Bijaipur in tappa Chhiyanve and Sarwa in pargana Bhuili in which separate heritable and transferable properties of various kinds are still in existence, the one being superior and the other inferior. At the last revision of records in 1887 it was found that there were some villages in which the existence of inferior properties was clear and unquestionable, but that, except in a few cases where the inferior proprietors had been protected by a sub-settlement, their rights had been obscured by the settlement of the whole *taluqa* with the Raja of Kantit at the permanent settlement. The interests of these inferior proprietors were determined and registered in the village administration papers and they are generally known as *kabizdars*. Similar to them are the *muqaddamidars* and *muqarraridars* of Agori and Singrauli, whose rights were defined by Mr. Roberts in 1842-45. The former are the descendants of the old proprietors who had been in possession of proprietary rights before the *taluqa* was permanently made over to the Raja, while the latter are the descendants of those who had also acquired a proprietary interest, having reclaimed their villages from waste, but had not attained rights equal to those of the former class. Mr. Roberts assessed the demands to be paid by these sub-proprietors to the

Raja as *taluqdar*, those of the *muqaddamidars* being fixed in perpetuity and those of the *muqarraridars* for twenty years. In addition to the *jamas*, Mr. Roberts also fixed *malikana* allowances of 15 per cent. on the *jama* of the *muqarrari* and 10 per cent. on that of the *muqaddami* villages to be paid to the *taluqdar*. There were 17 estates in Singrauli which were declared to be hereditary occupancy, as their occupants had held them for many years at a consolidated rental, and from which the occupants were not liable to eviction so long as they paid their rents punctually.

Proprietary castes.

Of the various proprietary castes Gaharwar Rajputs take the foremost place, holding at the present time 457,748 acres or 16·37 per cent. of the whole area in tahsils Mirzapur, Chunar and Robertsganj. They are represented by the Raja of Kantit, whose possessions are very extensive; and the property owned by the clan covers nearly the whole of tappas Chhiyanve and Kon and *taluqa* Saktesgarh, nearly one-half of Upraudh and nearly one-third of Chaurasi. Next to the Gaharwars come the Chandel Rajputs, represented by the Rajas of Agori-Barhar and Bijaigarh, who own 287,781 acres or 10·02 per cent. of the district exclusive of the Family Domains, their possessions being for the most part in parganas Barhar, Bijaigarh and Agori; while Benbansi Rajputs, represented by the Raja of Singrauli, own 243,286 acres or 8·70 per cent., their possessions being confined to pargana Singrauli. After them come Bhuinhars who hold 64,663 acres or 2·31 per cent. of the district, and are found in all subdivisions except tahsil Robertsganj and pargana Ahraura. Much of this area belongs to the Maharaja of Benares, but he is by no means the only propritor of this caste. Kunbis or Kurmis possess 52,979 acres or 1·89 per cent., their holdings being largest in Chaurasi, Bhagwat and Saktesgarh. They are followed by Gosains who hold 44,784 acres, chiefly in Chaurasi and Upraudh. Besides these large areas are in the hands of miscellaneous Rajput clans; and thus a very considerable portion of the district is owned by Rajput proprietors. The rest of the Mirzapur district is divided among a host of miscellaneous castes such as Brahmans, Banias, Khattris and Bhars; Musalmans hold but a small area, but the Government, which owns the Dudhi estate, must be reckoned among the larger proprietors.

Maharaja of Benares.

If the Family Domains be taken into account, far the largest proprietor in the district is the Maharaja of Benares. The family are Gautam Bhuinhars, whose home for many generations was at Gangapur in pargana Kaswar of the Benares district. The first member to gain distinction was Mansa Ram, the eldest of four brothers, who took service with Mir Rustam Ali, governor of Benares in the days of Nawab Saadat Khan of Oudh. In 1738 he obtained the revenue engagement for the *sarkars* of Jaunpur, Chunar and Benares in the name of his son, Balwant Singh, who also received the title of Raja Bahadur. Subsequently in 1754 Raja Balwant Singh extended his possessions by the acquisition of Kera-Mangraur, for which he obtained a grant or *altamgha* from the emperor Alamgir II. In the following year he secured the favour of Shuja-ud-daula and received as *jagir* half the revenue of pargana Bhadohi. In 1757 the *sarkar* of Ghazipur was added to his charge. Balwant Singh left a daughter by his first wife, Rani Gulab Kunwar, whose father was Bariar Singh of Pindra, the *zamindar* of Kol Asla, and two sons by a Rajput lady. Of the latter one was Chet Singh who succeeded to the charge of the province on his father's death in 1770, and in 1776, after the sovereignty of the Benares province had been transferred to the East India Company, obtained a *sanad* confirming him in his *zamindari* and the civil and criminal administration thereof, subject to an annual payment of Rs. 22,66,180. The events of Chet Singh's career belong principally to the general history of the district and need not be dealt with here. His rebellion in 1781 ended in his deposition and the bestowal of his estate on Mahip Narayan Singh, whose mother was Padam Kunwar, only legitimate child of Raja Balwant Singh, and whose father was Drigbijai Singh, of Narhan, in Darbhanga. The grant was conditional on the annual payment of 40 lakhs, while the civil and criminal administration of the city of Benares were taken out of the Raja's hands. By the agreement of October 27th 1794, the territories now known as the Family Domains, for which Raja Balwant Singh had obtained personal *sanads* from the emperor and the Nawab Wazir of Oudh, were separated from those which had been entrusted to his government. The direct control of the latter was assumed by the British, subject to the payment of one lakh of

rupees annually to the Raja from the surplus revenues of the province. The Raja died in the following year and was succeeded by his son, Raja Udit Narayan Singh Bahadur, who unsuccessfully attempted in 1805 to procure the abrogation of the agreement of 1794. He died childless in 1835, but he had adopted Iswari Prasad Narayan Singh, the son of his youngest brother, Parsiddh Narayan Singh. The Raja's constant loyalty during the Mutiny was rewarded with the personal title of Maharaja Bahadur, and in 1877 he obtained the marked distinction of the G.C.S.I. He too had no issue and adopted the son of his brother, Nar Narayan Singh, named Parbhu Narayan Singh, who succeeded to the title of Raja and the estate in 1889. The personal title of Maharaja Bahadur and the appellation of Highness was continued to him at his succession, and in 1891 he was created a Knight Commander of the Indian Empire. In 1898 he was raised to the dignity of a Knight Grand Commander of the same Order. In addition to the Family Domains, which comprise the 1,806 villages of pargana Bhadohi and Kera-Mangraur, the Maharaja owns 63,423 acres comprised in 178 villages and 49 *pattis* in this district, distributed over all the subdivisions in the Gangetic valley. In addition to this the Family Domains include 316 villages of pargana Kaswar Raja; while elsewhere the estates comprise 25,677 acres in Allahabad, 45,809 acres in Jaunpur, 3,304 acres in Ghazipur, 291 acres in Ballia and 48,000 acres in the Shahabad district of Bengal. The Family Domains in Mirzapur have an estimated rental of Rs. 8,11,006, the revenue demand being Rs. 1,84,464.

Raja Bhupendra Bahadur Singh of Kantit.

The largest landholder in the district after the Maharaja of Benares is Raja Bhupendra Bahadur Singh of Kantit. He is a Rajput of the Gaharwar clan, and comes of a family which claims descent from the kings of Kanauj. The early history is very obscure, but it would appear that Benares was for some time the seat of the Rajas. Their possessions in Mirzapur were acquired from the Bhars, and in course of time they exercised sway over all the northern portion of the district. Possibly the village of Gaharwargaon in the extreme south also derived its name from the same family. In course of time one Raja Gudan Deo divided his property between his two sons, the elder, Bhoj Raj, taking Khairagarh in Allahabad, where his representative, the Raja of Manda,

has still a large property, while the younger, Ugrasen, succeded to the Mirzapur domains. Nothing further is heard of the Gaharwars till the days of Akbar, when Sakat Singh is said to have conquered the territory of the Kols and also founded the fort of Saktesgarh. He married a daughter of the Monas chieftain of Bhadohi and received as dowry the tappa of Kon, which henceforth became a part of pargana Kantit. The family continued to enjoy their dominions until 1758, when Bikramajit Singh of Kantit was ejected by Raja Balwant Singh of Benares. The property was recovered after the flight of Raja Chet Singh in 1781, when Gobind Singh, son of Bikramajit, was awarded a *malikana* allowance of Rs. 37,500, this being subsequently exchanged for the Bijaipur *taluqa*. At the death of Raja Ghulam Singh, nephew and adopted son of Raja Gobind Singh, the revenue-free grant of Bijaipur was resumed and regularly settled with Raja Mahipal Singh, son of Ghulam Singh. In the time of the next heir, Raja Jagat Bahadur Singh, the estate became heavily encumbered. A loan of Rs. 4,00,000 was granted by Mr. Thomason in 1850, and the property was taken under the Court of Wards. Shortly before the grant of this loan Jagat Bahadur Singh died, leaving two minor sons. The elder of these, Raja Rajendra Bahadur Singh, died in 1863, when the estate was on the point of being restored to his management, and his infant son, the present owner of the estates, succeeded. During his minority the property was once more taken under the Court of Wards; but no sooner had it been released than fresh debts began to accumulate, and in 1901 the Raja requested the Government to resume the administration. The encumbrances, which were chiefly due to an unfortunate run of litigation, amounted at the time to about ten lakhs; but the estate is a large one and its credit good, and the debts will be satisfied without resorting to sale. The Raja resides at Bijaipur in tahsil Mirzapur, and the estate consists of 403 whole villages and shares in 59 others, all situated in this district: the revenue demand amounts to Rs. 96,051.

Rani Bed Saran Kunwar of Agori-Barhar.

The family of Rani Bed Saran Kunwar of Agori Barhar, who resides at Rajpur, in tahsil Robertsganj, belongs to the Chandel clan of Rajputs and owns an estate of 400 whole villages and shares in thirteen others, assessed to a demand of Rs. 35,433.

Chandels have been settled in the south of Mirzapur for many centuries; and tradition states that two members of the clan migrated eastwards in the 12th century after the battle of Mahoba. They took service with the Kharwar Raja of Singrauli, and at his death seized his estates. After three generations of rule, the Chandels were attacked at Agori about 1290 A. D. by a descendant of the Kharwar chieftain and all killed. One of the Ranis, however, managed to escape and subsequently gave birth to a son, named Oran Deo. The latter afterwards obtained the assistance of the Raja of Kantit, and recovered the whole of the parganas of Agori, Barhar and Bijaigarh. Little is known of the history of the family till about three centuries ago, when Raja Udan Deo gave Bijaigarh to his youngest son, Madhukar Sah. The rest of the property remained in the hands of the elder branch till the days of Raja Shimbhu Sah, from whom it was seized by Raja Balwant Singh of Benares in 1745. In 1781 Warren Hastings granted a *sanad* to Adil Sah, grandson of Shimbhu Sah, restoring him to the *zamindari* of Agori Barhar, with a money allowance of Rs. 8,001. Subsequently this allowance was exchanged for an additional grant of land, the revenue of which was assigned to the Raja. From 1852 to 1868 the estate was under the management of the Court of Wards. The present incumbent, Rani Bed Saran Kunwar, is the widow of Raja Kesho Saran Sah, who died in 1871.

Raja Raghu Sarju Saran Singh of Bijaigarh

Connected with the family of Agori Barhar is Raja Raghu Sarju Saran Singh of Bijaigarh, whose residence is at Ramgarh in tahsil Robertsganj. The Bijaigarh estate consists of 313 whole villages and 12 *pattis* paying a revenue of Rs. 14,139 in Mirzapur, and 13 whole villages and two *pattis* paying a revenue of Rs. 2,615 in the Shahabad district of Bengal; and was separated from the Agori estate in the manner already explained. The property remained in the possession of the descendants of Madhukar Sah till the days of Daljit Sahai. It fell into the hands of Raja Balwant Singh of Benares in 1781, who managed to bribe the keeper of the Bijaigarh fort. It was subsequently restored to Raja Prithipat Singh, but the right was contested by Raja Mahip Narayan Singh of Benares, on the ground of an alleged purchase by Balwant Singh. Eventually Prithipat regained

possession of the greater part of the pargana, which is still held by the Chandels. Raja Prithipat was succeeded in 1809 by his nephew, Gobind Saran, and the latter in 1818 by his son, Raja Ram Saran Sahai, who died in 1853, leaving a widow, Rani Prithi Raj Kunwar. The latter died in 1887. Her daughter had been married to Babu Brijendra Bahadur Singh of Kantit, to whom she gave a portion of the property, subsequently executing a deed in which she constituted the Babu her sole heir. At her death the entire estate passed into the possession of the Kantit Raja, but his right was disputed by several relatives of Raja Ram Saran Sahai. For some years the title of Raja remained in abeyance, but eventually in May 1895, the eldest representative of the next collateral branch, Bijai Bahadur Singh, obtained a decree awarding him the entire estate and the title was thereupon restored. The present owner of the estate is the son of Raja Bijai Bahadur Singh who died in 1898; and the property is at present under the management of the Court of Wards on account of the heavy liabilities incurred through litigation.

Raja Rudra Pratap Singh of Singrauli.

The family, of which Raja Rudra Pratap Singh of Singrauli is the present representative, are described as Benbansi Rajputs, and are said to be descended from Sombansis, who lived at Bithur in the Cawnpore district. Thence they moved to Jhusi near Allahabad, where they ruled for five generations. The story goes on to say that Raja Ram Singh was driven out by the Musalman governor and fled to Teothar in the Rewah State, where he acquired a new property. His descendant in the seventh generation, Kalanki Rai, killed the Kharwar ruler of Singrauli and took possession of his lands, his head quarters being at Nagan in Rewah. Takmal Sah, the grandson of Kalanki Rai, appears to have been attacked and killed by the Chandel Raja of Agori; and the family remained in exile for several generations. About 1673 A. D. Dariao Singh and Dalel Singh, in the direct line of descent from the founder of the house, seized and divided between them a portion of the ancient property, Dariao Singh taking the lands now known as Singrauli. His successor was Fakir Sah, who about 1697 assumed the title of Raja. He was nominally subject to the Chandels, but it does not appear that he ever paid any

tribute to them. His son, Raja Rudra Sah, agreed to pay an annual tribute of Rs. 701 to Raja Balwant Singh of Benares, after the expulsion of the Chandels. The claim to this due was acknowledged at the restoration of the Agori Raja by Warren Hastings in 1781, but in 1792 Mr. Duncan declared Singrauli to be independent and made a settlement of the pargana with the Raja direct on a permanent lease for Rs. 701. In 1803, however, the pargana was included in the *jagir* granted to Raja Ram Bahadur Sah of Agori-Barhar, and this led to protracted litigation. The final decision bestowing the proprietary right, subject to the small tribute, on the Singrauli Raja was made in 1834. Prior to this a considerable portion of the lands in Rewah had been confiscated by Raja Bishnath Singh, who granted a fresh *sanad* to Chhattar Singh of Singrauli for the payment of one-fourth of the revenue. The succession to the estate follows the rule of primogeniture, the younger sons being given *jagirs* which revert to the head of the family on the death of the incumbents. The property consists of 116 revenue-free villages in Mirzapur and 191 villages, known as the Singrauli Shahpur estate, in the Rewah State. The Raja receives a *malikána* allowance of 10 per cent. on the rent collections of the Dudhi estate, in addition to the income derived from his proprietary holdings.

Other large proprietors.

There are a few other large proprietors in Mirzapur who deserve a passing mention. Chief of these is Mahant Anand Gir, *chela* and successor of the late Mahant Jairam Gir, an old and much respected inhabitant of Mirzapur, who rendered loyal services in the Mutiny. His estates consist of 39 villages, owned wholly or in part, the revenue demand being Rs. 7,801; the villages are nearly all in tappas Chaurasi and Upraudh. Next comes Dip Narayan Chaudhari, the son and successor of Chandraman Chaudhari of Mirzapur who holds 33 villages assessed to Rs. 14,970, 21 being in pargana Bhagwat and the remainder in Bhuili, Haveli Chunar and Qariat Sikhar. Pandits Raja Ram Ju, Kirpa Ram and Daya Ram, the successors of Sadho Ram and Jairamji, Marathas, hold 32 villages, mainly in Haveli Chunar and Qariat Sikhar, which pay a demand of Rs. 7,350. Babu Beni Madho Das of Mirzapur owns 28 villages in the Mirzapur tahsil, and pays Rs. 7,575; and Saiyid Abdul Ghafur possesses 21 villages, wholly or

in part, in the same portion of the district, the land revenue being Rs. 5,764. Smaller landholders are Ganesh Prasad Chaudhari of Adhwar, 11 villages in Bhagwat and Ahraura, the demand on which amounts to Rs. 2,519; Pandit Gaya Prasad Pande, 13 villages in Chaurasi and Upraudh and a demand of Rs. 981; Babus Jugal Kishor and Bhagwati Prasad, Agarwalas of Chunar, 10 villages and a demand of Rs. 8,952; Gangeshar Prasad, 4 villages and Rs. 2,577; and Chaudharis Lachhmi Narayan and Shambhu Nath of Adhwar, 10 villages assessed to Rs. 2,361.

Cultivating tenures.

The cultivating tenures in the north of Mirzapur are identical with these prevailing throughout the permanently settled districts, and they came into existence in the same manner. Before the introduction of the permanent settlement there was really no distinction between rent and revenue in the modern sense of the terms, save in so far as the latter represented the sum paid by the *amils* to the central government and the former that paid to these officials by those in possession of the land. Under the government of successive Rajas of Benares the settled policy was to destroy the authority and influence of the landholders of the parganas and villages who were likely to intercept the profits of the land, and to extend cultivation by protecting the cultivators. In the place of pargana *zamindars*, *amils* were appointed who collected the payments from the cultivators direct and paid a stipulated sum, generally determined by auction beforehand, into the Raja s treasury. In some cases, it is true, the village *zamindars* were too strong for even the *amils* and Balwant Singh, and in such cases the payment due on account of the village was collected through their agencies; but generally speaking the system was a *ryotwari* assessment between the *amils* and the actual cultivators, whether proprietary or non-proprietary. The former appear to have been allowed to hold their own cultivation at more lenient rates than those enforced on tenants from the earliest times and this custom created the distinction between *sir* and other land. But the payments made by the other cultivators to the *amils* were calculated either at a general rate per *bigha* or else were determined by one or other of the prevailing systems of crop division. The *amils* were in fact mere rent collectors; and as they had

extensive tracts in their charge, it was impracticable for them to enter into controversies with the cultivators regarding rent-rates. The *bigha* rates accordingly tended to become fixed; and when the *amils* wished to enhance rents, the method adopted by them was to impose *abwab* or cesses in addition to the fixed rent-rates. During the time of Balwant Singh and Chet Singh, the *amils* appear to have been kept in salutary check; but from 1781 to 1787 the unprincipled extortion of the Raja's agents resulted in the country becoming a waste and the yearly decrease of revenue. In addition to the imposition of cesses, all sorts of illegal devices were resorted to for the exaction of additional rent from the cultivators, such as the employment of a shorter measure of length and the alteration of crop with cash rents according to the nature of the season; against these the cultivators had no remedy but combined opposition and passive resistance which in most cases were unsuccessful. The first and fundamental act in the settlement of the country undertaken by Mr. Duncan was the enactment of the Regulation of June 25th, 1788; by this a uniform system of lease was introduced, the measuring rod was specified, the system of appraisement was made obligatory in the case of rents in kind, all cesses and new charges introduced since the *fasli* year 1187 were abolished, and the rent-rates adopted for general application to cultivated land were determined to be the rates obtained by incorporating the cesses with the rent-rates of the year 1187 *fasli*. That this rate and no other was to be exacted from the tenants, whether by farmers or village *zamindars*, was again emphatically affirmed in December 1788 and November 1789; and during the following five years *amins* were annually deputed into the interior, in the months of June and July, to distribute to the cultivators leases at these rates. And thus it came to pass that the tenants whose rents have or can be assumed to have remained unchanged since the permanent settlement are the tenants at fixed rates.

Tenancy legislation.

When the completion of the permanent settlement was approaching, Mr. Duncan, fearing that after his departure and under the new system the protection afforded to the tenants would be less efficient, determined to make one more effort to secure their rights. In February 1795 an establishment of special commissioners

was appointed and deputed into the interior for the purpose of carrying into full execution a measure which had been only partially accomplished. The general instructions issued to the *amins* and all the special orders given from time to time to overcome special difficulties reported by them are detailed in Regulation LI of 1795, which may be regarded as the first legislation undertaken on behalf of tenants. This Regulation laid down that "no proprietor or farmer of land, nor any other person, shall require ryots, whose pottahs may expire or become cancelled, to take out new pottahs at higher rates than the established rates of the pargana for lands of the same quality or description; due consideration being had, as far as may be required by the custom of the district, to the alteration of the species of culture and the caste of the cultivator." To the same regulation may be assigned the origin of occupancy rights; for it is laid down that *khudkasht* or *chapparband* ryots will be entitled to have their pottahs renewed at the established rates and that they cannot be dispossessed so long as they continue to pay the stipulated rent. By *khudkasht* tenants are to be understood the resident cultivators; *pahikasht* or non-resident tenants on the other hand could be removed from their holdings on the expiry of their leases. It was at the same time laid down by Regulation LI of 1795 that no lease should be given or, if given, should be valid for any term exceeding ten years; for it was feared that the *zamindars* would through ignorance or improvidence grant leases on ruinously low terms or for ridiculously long periods to the endangering of the collection of the public revenue. One result of this enactment was that the rates of such tenants were fixed for ever so that this class of holding became for all practical purposes identical with that of tenants at fixed rates. In other respects the Regulation proved of little effect, for, owing to the ignorance of the cultivators, few leases were granted. The next important alteration in the law was effected by Regulation V of 1812. The ten years' rule as to leases was repealed as objectionable and *zamindars* were declared competent to grant leases at any rent or for any period most convenient to themselves. Further, auction-purchasers were declared bound by existing leases unless they were proved to be collusive. Under the existing law purchasers at public sales were entitled to collect,

for the year in which the sale took place, according to the established usages and rates of the pargana or district in which such lands happened to be situated. Much uncertainty, however, existed as to what these rates were and it was accordingly enacted that where no well-established rates were known, "*pattas* were to be granted and collections made according to the rate payable for land of a similar description in the places adjacent." It was further declared that no tenant should be liable to pay an enhanced rent, though subject to enhancement under subsisting regulations, unless written engagements for such enhanced rent had been entered into by the parties, or a formal notice had been served on the tenant. This Regulation had been drawn up with a view to redress the abuses practiced by auction-purchasers and others on their tenants; but it merely opened the door to more oppression; for the courts interpreted the clause, which rendered the serving of a notice necessary before enhancement, to mean that whenever the landlord chose to serve such notice he was entitled to an increased rent. To correct the evils arising from this misinterpretation a Regulation was drafted in 1827 by Mr. Harrington; but it was never passed, and it was not until the great Tenancy Act X of 1859 was enacted that the relative rights and liabilities of land-holder and tenant were defined. This Act contained two sets of provisions; the first applicable only to the permanently settled districts, and the second applicable to both the permanently and the temporarily settled districts. In the Benares province there were certain tenure-holders or "dependent *taluqdars*" who at the time of the permanent settlement had held their tenures at a fixed rent for more than twelve years and who were declared entitled to hold at such fixed rent. Besides these there were tenants holding on similar terms and "*khudkasht kadimi* ryots or resident hereditary cultivators having a prescriptive right of occupancy," who had been created by Regulation LI of 1795 and whose position was similar to that of the "dependent *taluqdars*." The Act not only provided for the right of these two classes to hold at fixed rates, but extended their privileges to others by fixing the permanent settlement as the time from which the holding must have dated and by declaring that proof of holding at fixed rates for twenty years should raise the presumption that such holding dated from

the permanent settlement. The second set of provisions introduced the occupancy tenant of twelve years' standing, whose rent was determined at prevailing or fair and equitable rates, which were somewhat higher than the old fixed rates by reason of the increased value of the produce. These occupancy tenants at first enjoyed similar privileges to those of tenants at fixed rates, but their position was materially altered by Act XVIII of 1873 which made their right non-transferable, and at the same time laid down strict rules with regard to inheritance. The same Act introduced a new class in the shape of ex-proprietary holders of *sir* lands; but the number of tenants coming under this head is still small and the area thus classified is insignificant.

Cultivating tenures in the Family Domains.

The cultivating tenures of the Family Domains differ in some respects from those found elsewhere and deserve a passing mention. In Bhadohi there are three principal classes of tenants. Those who have held their lands continuously either as heirs or transferees of the original tenants from the time of the preparation of the *hal hasil* records in 1831-36 by Mr. Valpy are known as *qabal hal hasil* tenants. Their holdings are equivalent to those of fixed-rate tenants in the rest of the permanently settled districts. The second class comprises the *bad hal hasil* tenants, or those who at the settlement of the pargana between 1864 and 1875 were found to have occupied or cultivated continuously as tenants-in-chief for twenty years from April 5th, 1847, and who were declared to have rights of occupancy. Their rents were determined at the settlement by first ascertaining what would be payable at *shikmi* rates and then deducting 36 per cent. from those rates in the case of a high caste (*ashraf*) and 20 per cent. in the case of a low caste (*razil*) tenant. Their rights are also heritable and transferable. There remain the *ghair-maurusi* or tenants-at-will, who may be further distinguished into two classes. The first includes those who have held land other than *sir* for less than twenty years directly from the superior or inferior proprietor. Such tenants can in *na-manzuri* villages by prescriptive occupancy or cultivation acquire rights of occupancy; but in *manzuri* villages a special clause was inserted in the *wajib-ul-arz* at the time of settlement to provide against the accrual of such rights by prescription during the term of settlement. In the second class come all the tenants

who cultivate *sir* or hold land under other tenants who can never obtain occupancy rights. In Kera-Mangraur there was no classification of tenures of any kind until the revision of records in 1887-88. It was then laid down* that *sir* should include firstly, the land recorded as such in Major Stewart's record of 1842-43; secondly, land continuously cultivated for twelve years by the proprietor or sub-proprietor himself; and thirdly, all *salisi* land purchased by the Maharaja, provided that the land recorded as the Maharaja's *sir* should not exceed one-tenth of the whole cultivated area of the pargana. By *salisi* land is meant the land held by a tenant and his predecessors in interest from the time of the preparation of Major Stewart's record at the same rate of rent, such tenants having a right of occupancy at that rate and being equivalent to fixed-rate tenants. Lastly, tenants who had actually occupied or cultivated land continuously for twenty years are deemed to have a right of occupancy provided that they are not holding the land as sub-tenants or in lieu of wages or on written leases.

Present statistics

The earliest statistics of tenancy available are those made at the revision of records in 1887; but they were compiled for only that portion of the district which lies in the Gangetic valley that is for parganas Haveli Chunar, Bhuili, Qariat Sikhar, Ahraura and Bhagwat, *tappas* Chhiyanve, Kon and Chaurasí, and *taluqa* Majhwa. At that time the total recorded area in holdings for this portion of the district was 292,119 acres, of which 18·38 per cent. was in the hands of the proprietors themselves, either as *sir* or *khudkasht*, 34·06 per cent. in those of fixed-rate tenants, and 26·16 per cent. in those of ex-proprietary and occupancy tenants, while tenants-at-will held 19·10 per cent., the small remainder being rent-free or in miscellaneous holdings. Complete statistics are at the present time available for the whole of the district as far as the Kaimur range, and these suggest that there has been a considerable modification of some of these figures. In 1907-08 the area included in holdings in the district, excluding the Sonpar tract and Family Domains, was 767,332 acres, of which 179,509 acres or 23·39 per cent. were cultivated by proprietors as *sir* or *khudkasht*. This proportion exceeds that of Benares and Jaunpur but is considerably below that of Ballia or Ghazipur. The

* G. O. no. 460/I—55A, dated April 9th, 1887.

proportion is actually highest in the surveyed portion of Bijaigarh, where it reaches 38·37 per cent. and after it come Kon, 33·26 per cent., Barhar, 27·83 per cent. and *tappa* Chaurasi, 27·38 per cent.; while at the bottom of the scale is Ahraura, 9·48 per cent. The increase in the proportion on the figures of 1887 is due to the inclusion of parganas Barhar, Bijaigarh and *taluqa* Saktesgarh; for the area cultivated by the proprietors in the tahsil of Chunar, excluding Saktesgarh, is only 15·47 per cent., that of tahsil Mirzapur being 21·81 per cent., and from this it appears that the area of *sir* and *khudkasht* has not much changed. On the other hand fixed-rate tenants now hold but 15·75 per cent. of the holdings area, the proportion being particularly high in Majhwa, where it amounts to nearly 68 per cent., and very low in Barhar and Bijaigarh where it is but 2·62 per cent. Compared with the figures of 1887 the proportion now held by these tenants in the Gangetic valley has fallen to 28 per cent. As already stated, the ex-proprietary area is small, being but 1,539 acres, and, combined with that held by occupancy tenants, accounts for 16·16 per cent. of the holdings area: it is particularly large in the Chunar tahsil, where the proportion is 25·56 per cent., and like that held by fixed-rate tenants, has decreased in the Gangetic valley to 20·4 per cent.

Only 9,408 acres or 1·23 per cent. of the holdings area were held rent-free in 1907-08, and the remainder, or 43·46 per cent., is in the hands of tenants-at-will. This area is largest in the upland parganas and *tappas*, namely Chaurasi, Upraudh, Bhagwat, Saktesgarh, Barhar and Bijaigarh, the highest proportions being 62·72 per cent. in Barhar, 59·59 per cent. in Saktesgarh, and over 51 per cent. in Upraudh and Ahraura. This is due to the lightness and poverty of the soil, which often does not admit of continuous cultivation, especially in the outlying lands which are all that is left to tenants-at-will. On the other hand in the fertile parganas of the plains the proportion falls as low as 6·49 per cent in *taluqa* Majhwa, 11·09 per cent in Kon and 17·23 per cent. in Qariat Sikhar, the other subdivisions holding an intermediate position. Of the whole area held by these tenants, however, nearly 40 per cent. has been held for over twelve years; and if this area be included in the occupancy area, the latter amounts to 33 per cent. of the land included in holdings, and the land held by tenants-at-will who have, under the existing law,

no rights of occupancy, becomes but 25 per cent. of the whole. The general result is that nearly half the holdings area in the northern portion of the district is in the hands of privileged tenants, the remainder being comprised half in the holdings of proprietors and half in those of tenants without any right of occupancy. In both the latter cases the proportions are higher in the upland tracts than in the valley of the Ganges; and from this it will be seen that in these places proprietors usually take the place of privileged tenants as cultivators.

In the Family Domains, according to the returns prepared by the Maharaja of Benares, the area cultivated by proprietors as *sir* or *khudkasht* is a little less than 15 per cent. being nearly 17 per cent. in Bhadohi and nearly 11 per cent. in Kera-Mangraur. A large area, nearly 43 per cent. of the total, is in the hands of tenants with privileged rights, the proportion in Bhadohi being nearly 60 per cent. as against about 5 per cent. in Kera-Mangraur; and an additional 14 per cent. is held by tenants with occupancy rights. Besides this, 7·5 per cent. of the holdings area is in the hands of tenants who have held the land for over twenty years, and that held by tenants without rights of any sort is but 15 per cent. of the whole, the bulk of which is in Kera-Mangraur. The remainder, some 6 per cent., is rent-free, being partly grants made by the landlord and partly held in lieu of wages. No similar statistics are available for the unsurveyed portion of the district, nor are any records of holdings and rentals kept up in it.

Sub-tenants.

The figures given above do not take into account the area held by *shikmi* or sub-tenants. This amounted in 1907-08 to 22 per cent. of the holdings area, the proportion being highest in the thickly populated tracts lying to the north of the Ganges, namely tappa Kon, taluqa Majhwa and pargana Qariat Sikhar. On the other hand it was particularly low in the surveyed portion of Bijaigarh, where it was but 8 per cent. In the Family Domains the proportion is 39 per cent.: but there are no separate figures to show the area of such holdings in the lands recorded under the various classes of tenancy. The *shikmi* naturally pays a very high rent, as he does not enjoy privileged rates, like the occupancy tenants, and as he usually cultivates the best land in the village whether it be *sir* or the holding of a fixed-rate or occupancy tenant,

The tenant-at-will, on the other hand, has generally to be content with the worst land, in which no rights have accrued.

Grain-rents.

Ever since the permanent settlement the great bulk of the rents in the district have been paid in cash. The conversion of grain-rents was one of the special objects aimed at by Mr. Duncan at the time of the settlement of 1788-89; and from that time they tended to disappear. In 1907-08 the area of land paying grain-rents in the surveyed portion of the district was 53,591 acres, just two-thirds of which lay in parganas Barhar and Bijaigarh, the bulk of the remainder being in Chaurasi, Upraudh, Bhagwat and Saktesgarh. From this it will be seen that the grain-rented land is almost entirely in the parganas that lie wholly or partly on the Vindhyan plateau. Here the soil is poor and the produce precarious; and a system of rent in kind, by which any inferiority in the crop is shared equally by the landlord and tenant alike, commends itself more strongly than a cash rental to the people. The general poorness of the land for which grain-rents were taken may be inferred from the fact that the recorded rental in 1907-08 was but Rs. 25,298. The area of such land in the Family Domains is not separately recorded, but in 1906-07 the cash value of the crop rental on it was Rs. 33,002, all of which came from Kera-Mangraur and doubtless from the Naugarh *taluqa*, which has most characteristics in common with the upland portions of the district proper. The rent in these lands is either calculated by appraisement just before harvest, or is paid by actual division of the crop, the landlord's share varying from one-tenth to one-half according to the quality of the field.

Cash-rents.

From the foregoing account of the cultivating tenures it will be evident that the cash-rentals afford no index of the fertility of the land, nor indeed, except very generally, of the relative capacity of the various parganas. Nearly all the good land is held either by the proprietors themselves, in which case rents are not even recorded, or by fixed-rate or occupancy tenants, so that the rents paid by tenants-at-will are necessarily low. The returns of 1907-08 show that for the surveyed portion of the district, the average rent paid by tenants at fixed rates was Rs. 3-7-5 an acre, ranging from Rs. 4-13-4 in Qariat Sikhar to Rs. 0-4-5 in Barhar. The average for the Chunar tahsil was Rs. 4-5-2, for Mirzapur,

Rs. 3-4-2 and for Robertsganj, excluding Sonpar, only Re. 0-5-1 Occupancy tenants with declared rights paid Rs. 3-0-1, pargana Bhuili on this occasion heading the list with Rs. 5-8-11 and Barhar being again at the bottom of the scale with Re. 0-13-2. The general rate for tenants-at-will was Rs. 2-4-1 and reached the high figure of Rs. 9-1-8 in Qariat Sikhar and Rs. 6-3-10 in Bhuili. In Chhiyanve, Kon, Bhuili, Haveli Chunar and Qariat Sikhar, or in all the parganas lying wholly in the Gangetic valley, except *taluqa* Majhwa, the non-occupancy rate exceeded that of fixed rate and occupancy tenants; and the same was the case in Saktesgarh, Barhar and Bijaigarh. In the case of the former the area held by tenants-at-will was generally but a small proportion of the whole rented area, and the rents appear to have been forced up by competition, whereas in the latter case it was exceptionally large, there being but little land in the hands of privileged tenants. But in Upraudh, Chaurasi, Bhagwat, Ahraura and Majhwa the opposite is the case, and here tenants-at-will pay decidedly lower rents than their privileged brethren for the reason that they have to content themselves with the worst land. The rates for sub-tenants, which more closely approximate to a true competition rental, averaged Rs. 6-4-7 an acre for the district and ranged from Rs. 11-1-8 in Majhwa to Re. 1-3-9 in Barhar. In the Family Domains the average rate paid by privileged tenants in Bhadohi is Rs. 4-5-8 and in Kera-Mangraur Rs. 3-2-11, the former being practically the same as that of the Chunar tahsil. Tenants with declared rights pay Rs. 4-0-3, while for the land which is not held in declared right, whether it has been cultivated for more than twenty years or for less, Rs. 3-4-7 is paid, the corresponding rates in Kera-Mangraur being Rs. 4-3-10 and Rs. 3-7-2. Implicit reliance, however, cannot be placed on these figures, for many holdings contain non-rented areas and rents are frequently concealed. At the same time, when allowance has been made for these factors, it is certain that there has been a gradual rise in the rents paid by non-occupancy and *shikmi* tenants, whose payments alone can be regarded as regulated by competition. This is a natural result of the increase in the value of produce, the growth of population and the improvements in the means of communication. Thus for the ten years

ending in 1897-98 the recorded rent of tenants-at-will was Re. 1-12-1 per acre, that for *shikmi* tenants being Rs. 5-14-10; while the decennial average from 1898-99 to 1907-08 was Rs. 2-2-4 for the former and Rs. 6-0-6 for the latter class. In Mirzapur as elsewhere, though caste privilege is theoretically not recognized, cultivators of the lower castes almost invariably pay higher rents than Brahmans and Rajputs. This is due largely to their social position; but it partly also results from their superior capacity; and castes such as Koeris and Kachhis will be found paying the highest rents of all. Generally speaking, rents are determined by competition, vary according to the capacity of the field and are modified by certain considerations such as caste or precariousness.

Rents in Sonpar.

The wild and barren tract of Sonpar has a rental system of its own, which deserves separate description. Here the class of soil does not affect the question of rent, which is levied, not according to the capacities of the soil, but in proportion to the number of ploughs maintained by the cultivator. The rates per plough vary from Rs. 5 to Rs. 2-2-0 per annum. The cultivating holding is known as *tora,* or land "broken up" from the jungle. The area of a one plough *tora* varies with the character of the land and the industry of the cultivator, but it may generally be taken to be about 20 *bighas.* It should properly contain a due proportion of three varieties of soil, namely, *dhanha,* or land fit for growing *dhan* or rice; *chaita,* land suited for growing the spring crops which ripen in *Chait*; and *kudaila* or *bagar,* so called because it usually grows *kodon.* Such a holding should pay Rs. 5, Rs. 7 or Rs. 10 according to its capabilities. The amount of each class of land in the holding is regulated by the assumed area which a certain amount of seed is sufficient to sow. Thus in an ordinary *tora,* the *dhanha* land should hold 2½ *kauris* of paddy seed, the *chaita* eight *pattis,* and the *kadaila* four *pattis.* No account is taken of *bighas* and *biswas.* Cultivation is either permanent or fluctuating. The land under fluctuating cultivation is under the plough as a rule for three years in succession and is then allowed to lie fallow for three years more. In Dudhi a cultivator who has for three years continuously cultivated land capable of being permanently cultivated, has a right of occupancy therein at the

settlement rate of assessment or at such rate as he may agree to if he acquires possession after settlement, but his holding is only transferable by inheritance; the retention of the right of occupancy is dependent on the regular payment of the rent. Lastly, cultivators recorded as hereditary at the settlement have a right of occupancy in the permanent cultivation then held by them.

Cultiv- ing cas

No statistics exist for forming an estimate of the actual amount of land in the hands of the various cultivating castes in Mirzapur and only a general idea of their distribution can be formed. Brahmans preponderate in the lowlands of the Mirzapur tahsil, namely in Chhiyanve, Chaurasi, Kon and Majhwa, and in Bhadohi; but they are found in all subdivisions to a greater or less extent. The distribution of Rajputs, who run Brahmans close, is similar, and of the higher castes the only one that is important is the Bhuinhar which is well-represented only in Mirzapur tahsil. In the Chunar tahsil much of the cultivation is in the hands of industrious Kurmis; and these together with Koeris may be considered the chief cultivating castes. At the same time it must be remembered that much of the cultivation recorded in the names of Brahmans and Rajputs is carried on by the low castes such as Pasis, Chamars and Ahirs, who are well-represented in all tahsils, but especially in Mirzapur and Korh. In other subdivisions the latter two hold a considerable area as tenants direct; and with them are found Kewats, Lunias, Gadariyas and Binds, as well as other miscellaneous castes. The first are almost confined to Mirzapur and Korh; but the second are well-distributed over all tahsils; while Binds preponderate in Chunar and Gadariyas, though scattered, are chiefly in Mirzapur, Korh and Chunar. On the Vindhyan plateau Kols begin to take a place side by side with Chamars, Gadariyas and Ahirs; while south of the Son river most of the cultivation is carried on by aboriginal tribes.

Condit of the people

Taken as a whole the condition of the people is satisfactory. In the Gangetic valley and the north of the district generally there is no doubt that the greater part of the population has improved in wealth and comfort during the past fifty years, though the amelioration has not been altogether uniform. The inhabitants have not suffered from famine in the bulk of the area, and even when the rainfall has been scanty well-irrigation has been generally

able to carry them through. On the Vindhyan plateau, however, the agriculturist has suffered to some extent from a succession of seasons unfavourable to his calling in some respect or other, and here the circumstances of the people are poorer than in the parganas that border the river. At the same time it is true that in this, the richest portion of the district, the land is owned or cultivated by large and growing communities, and the pressure of population on the soil has reduced the size of the holdings to so small a figure that a livelihood cannot be gained from it unless the utmost is extracted from the land. There is a class too of agricultural labourers who are wholly or practically landless, depending for their livelihood on the wages they earn by ploughing, weeding, reaping and similar employment. Indebtedness is rife and the population is generally hampered by want of capital, seed and plough cattle, especially in the uplands. On the other hand there is a large class which is in comparatively affluent circumstances owing to the possession of occupancy and similar rights. These rights being transferable secure them abundant credit and at the same time they pay extremely low rents. Of late, too, the labouring class has benefited by the growing demand for labour in places outside the district or even the province, where they earn good wages, enabling them to remit to their homes substantial sums by means of money-orders. In the isolated, rocky and ungenerous region of Sonpar the condition of the people is very different. Men of wealth or social standing are very few, and the bulk of the population are aborigines whose standard of comfort is very low. The most numerous class, the small tenants, are, as a rule, very poor, and what little profit they manage to make in the year is all absorbed in defraying the expenses incident on birth, marriage and death ceremonies. Here too credit is very scarce, exorbitant rates of interest are charged for loans, and in addition to an unproductive soil the cultivator has to contend with difficulties in obtaining seed and a shortage of plough-cattle. Cut off as this tract is by many miles of road or forest track from the fertile and populous plains where railways bring the people into touch with all parts of India, it has almost wholly escaped the influences that engender a desire to improve the conditions of life. The people are shy and retiring, wedded to ancient customs and have hardly yet cast off their

nomadic habits. In early times the jungle provided most of them with sufficient food to enable them to keep body and soul together, if eked out with a little precarious cultivation; and many still look to the forest as their home. Changes are wrought but slowly in Sonpar, and it will be many years before conditions distinctly approaching those of the Gangetic valley prevail there.

CHAPTER IV.

ADMINISTRATION AND REVENUE.

The district is in the charge of a magistrate and collector who is subject to the control of the commissioner of the Benares division. The sanctioned magisterial and revenue staff consists of two joint magistrates, one of whom always fills the office of deputy superintendent of the Family Domains, one full powered deputy collector, and two deputy or assistant magistrates with less than full powers. There are also three tahsildars, a bench of honorary magistrates invested with second class powers at Mirzapur, and similar benches at Chunar and Korh with third class powers.* In addition to these, Raja Rudr Pratap Singh of Singrauli has second class criminal jurisdiction within the police circle of Khairwa and in pargana Singrauli. Criminal appeals and sessions work are entrusted to the sessions judge of Mirzapur. For the purpose of civil jurisdiction the whole district, with the exception of that portion which lies south of the Kaimur range and is scheduled under Act XIV of 1874, is included in the judgeship of Mirzapur; and there is also a subordinate judge and a munsif at Mirzapur, whose authority extends to the same area, in subordination to the judge, though certain suits of a civil nature in the Family Domains are exempted both from their and the judge's jurisdictions under circumstances which will be presently explained. The remaining official staff consists of the superintendent of police and his assistants, the civil surgeon and his assistants, the district engineer, the sub-deputy opium agent, the deputy inspector of schools and the postmaster. The engineer in charge of the Mirzapur canal survey division also lives at Mirzapur; and at Chunar is stationed the superintendent of the reformatory school. Distri[ct] staff.

* The bench at Mirzapur has jurisdiction only within municipal limits; but that at Chunar has jurisdiction, not only within the notified area, but within the police circles of Chunar, Chhota Mirzapur and Ahraura, excluding villages of the last named circle which fall within pargana Kera-Mangraur. The bench at Korh has jurisdiction within pargana Bhadohi, and it is invested with second class powers when the deputy principal revenue officer sits on it.

The Family Domains. The portion of the Benares Family Domains which is included in Mirzapur forms an integral part of the district in criminal matters, being made into a subdivisional charge the duties of which are always undertaken by the deputy superintendent. The latter in the capacity of a criminal court is usually known as the divisional magistrate. In revenue matters entirely and in civil jurisdiction partially, the Domains are separate from the rest of the district*. As regards the first, the Maharaja of Benares is himself nominally collector; † but he is permitted, with the previous concurrence of the superintendent, to delegate his powers to one or more subordinate officers. The officer who is at present vested with these delegated powers is known as the principal revenue officer; he is also *diwan* and holds his court at Ramnagar, while a deputy principal revenue officer sits at Korh and disposes in effect of most of the work, except as regards *patwaris* and *qanungos* with whom the Maharaja deals himself. Subordinate to the principal revenue officer are two tahsildars; but they have no special powers allotted to them and are little more than agents in the collection of rent or revenue. For all suits relating to land of every description or to the rent, revenue of produce thereof, the court of original jurisdiction is that of the native commissioner, who is nominated by the Maharaja and appointed by him, subject to the veto of the superintendent in cases of notorious bad character or incapacity. There is no limit to his jurisdiction as regards the money value of the suits instituted in his court; and such suits, when they are not covered by the sections of the ordinary rent and revenue law prevailing in the province of Agra, which have been extended by rule to the Domains,‡ consist generally of suits relating to deeds of conveyance, mortgage or hypothetication, and those contesting titles and the possession of lands. The superintendent of the Domains is the commissioner for the time being of the

* The civil and revenue administration of the Domains is determined generally by Regulation VII of 1828, as modified by Act XIV of 1881, and special rules made by the Local Government under section 12 of the latter Act.

† Under the Income Tax Act (II of 1886), however, the powers of a collector are vested in the deputy superintendent.

‡ The Agra Tenancy Act (Act II of 1901) and the United Provinces Land Revenue Act (Act III of 1901) have not been extended to the Family Domains; but special sections of Act XIX of 1873 and Act XII of 1881 are still in force.

Benares division; but nearly all his powers* are delegated to the deputy superintendent who supervises the administration of the Maharaja, subject to the general control of the superintendent.† The civil law, so far as it is applicable to the civil suits in the court of the native commissioner, is distinguished in no way from the civil law prevailing throughout the provinces.‡ The Code of Civil Procedure (Act XIV of 1882) is of general application,§ but the deputy superintendent and the Board of Revenue take the place, under special rules in force, of the ordinary appellate courts;|| and all orders of a native commissioner are appealable to the superintendent and so to his delegate, the deputy superintendent, it having been especially provided that no decree or order of a native commissioner shall be held to be unappealable by reason of anything contained in the Code of Civil Procedure.¶ From the deputy superintendent a second appeal lies to the Board of Revenue in cases where the amount or value of the subject matter in dispute exceeds Rs. 100, or in which the proprietary title to land or the title of a tenant to occupy land has been determined.**

The Schedul Tract.

The wild country south of the Kaimurs†† forms in revenue and civil matters a separate administrative area to which many of the

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* The only exception is that the deputy superintendent has no connection with appeals from the Maharaja's personal orders which are appealable to the superintendent.

† For a history of the office of superintendent and deputy superintendent *vide* Punnett's *Manual of the Family Domains*, pp. I foll.

‡ Previous to the passing of Act XIV of 1881, the Domains were a district scheduled under Act XIV of 1874, and they were excluded from the operation of many acts by the Laws Local Extent Act (XV of 1874). All existing regulations in the North-Western Provinces were made applicable to the Domains by Section 26, Regulation VIII of 1828; and by Section 25 of Act XIV of 1881 'regulations' are made to include Acts for the time being in force in the province.

§ *Vide* Section 22, Act XIV of 1881. The present Act in force is Act V of 1908.

|| Exceptions to the general application of the Code of Civil Procedure and the system of appeals are laid down in the rules published in G. O. no. 433/I—262, dated April 2nd, 1888.

¶ The Board of Revenue, however, have held (Ganga Din *versus* Bhola, Regular Appeal no. 9 of 1899) that no appeal lies to the deputy superintendent from an order of the native commissioner passed under Section 9, Specific Relief Act.

** For greater detail the reader is referred to H. B. Punnett's *Manual of the Family Domains.*

†† The portions of the district scheduled under Act XIV of 1874 are stated as "Tappas Agori Khas and South Kon, in pargana Agori; the tappas of British Singrauli in pargana Singrauli; tappas Phulwa, Dudhi and Barha in pargana Bichhipar; the portion lying to the south of the Kaimur range."

ordinary laws in force in the province are not extended.* The administration of civil justice† is regulated by the provisions of the Code of Civil Procedure (Act V of 1908) and there are five grades of courts, namely, those of the *tahsildar*, assistant collectors of the second class, assistant collectors of the first class, the deputy commissioner and the commissioner. The court of the *tahsildar* has power to try and determine suits of every description in which the value and amount of the subject matter does not exceed Rs. 300: in the case of assistant collectors of the second class the limit is Rs. 500 and in that of those of the first class Rs. 1,000. The deputy commissioner has the power to try and determine suits of every description and of any amount and to hear appeals from the original decisions in suits and from the orders of the courts of the first, second and third grades. He is also empowered to direct business in the courts subordinate to him. The court of the commissioner is the highest court of appeal for purposes of all acts, save those relating to succession and divorce, jurisdiction in regard to which is vested in the High Court of Allahabad. These courts supersede in this portion of the district the civil jurisdiction of the district judge, as well as that of the subordinate judge and munsif. The revenue administration of tappas Dudhi, Pulwa, Barha and Gonda Bajia is peculiar owing to the peculiar tenures prevailing there ;† but the whole tract south of the Kaimurs is subject to the provisions of the Agra Tenancy Act (II of 1901) and the United Provinces Land Revenue Act (III of 1901).‡

Formation of the district.

The district of Mirzapur, with the exception of a few villages§ received from Allahabad in 1861, falls entirely within the tract of country once known as the province of Benares. The sovereignty of this was formally ceded to the East India Company in 1775 by the Nawab Wazir of Oudh; but the tract itself was included in the *zamindari* of the Raja of Benares and remained in his actual possession until 1794, when Raja Mahip Narayan Singh surrendered the control to the Governor General by the agreement of the

* For the enactments in force, *vide* the United Provinces Code, 1906, Vol. II, pp. 1002, 1012. Also notification No. 638, dated 30th May 1879.

† Notification no. 634, dated 14th July 1869.

‡ Notifications nos. $\frac{1926}{I}$, $\frac{1926}{731}$, dated 16th July 1904

§ Mowat, Nerikatani, Maheshpur, Durjanipur, Mangarhi, Deohat, Katra and Bamsaur.

27th of October of that year. It is not until 1830 that we find Mirzapur with a separate revenue jurisdiction of its own; until that year it had been included in Benares. Mirzapur was then placed under a local "collector of customs," the subdivisions assigned to the new collectorate being tappas Chaurasi, Chhiyanve, Upraudh, Kon and Saktesgarh of pargana Kantit, and seven other parganas, Bhagwat, Bhuili, Haveli Chunar, Qariat Sikhar, Agori, Barhar and Bijaigarh. Bhadohi, Kon, and Majhwa were restored to Benares on the protest of the Raja, but were afterwards reannexed to Mirzapur. Kera Mangraur and Singrauli were added later. There has been no change of territorial limits in Mirzapur since 1833, when the revenue and judicial administrations were made to coincide throughout the Benares province; but several alterations have been made in the subdivisional boundaries since the tract came into the possession of the British. *Tahsildari* divisions were recognised under the rule of Raja Balwant Singh, and the system of farming the revenues to what were called *dahyak** *tahsildars*, or officials who were remunerated by a commission on their collections, was retained until the expiry of their engagements in 1809. An old record submitted to the Board in 1801 shows that every pargana and tappa with few exceptions had a separate *tahsildar*. They do not appear to have resided within the limits of their *tahsildaris*, and frequent injunctions were issued to obtain this object. In 1804 it was resolved to abolish the office of *tahsildar* in the Benares province "at the expiration of the current *fasli* year;" but this sweeping measure appears to have referred only to the office as then understood and the appointment of *tahsildars* on salaries, wherever there would be inconvenience from the payment of revenue direct into the treasury, was contemplated. In 1809, *tahsildaris* as now understood were established for tappas Chaurasi, Upraudh, Chhiyanve, Saktesgarh and Bhagwat at Chaurasi; and for parganas Agori-Barhar and Bijaigarh at Kusancha. No *tahsildars* were appointed for the rest of the district as it then stood, but a list was made out of the parganas, tappas and estates constituted *huzur tahsil*—that is, in which payment was required to be made at the headquarter tahsil. This

* This name was derived from the fact that they were given an allowance of 10 per cent. for the expenses of collection and the maintenance of a police force in their jurisdictions.

would then of course be Benares, as Mirzapur had not yet been constituted a separate district. The first of the two tahsils created in 1809 corresponds to a great extent with the present Mirzapur tahsil. Saktesgarh and Bhagwat have been taken away from it and Kon and Majhwa added. To the tahsil which had its headquarters in 1809 at Kusancha, Singrauli and Dudhi were added later, and the whole was for some time known as the Shahganj tahsil. It obtained its present name of Robertsganj about 1854, when the headquarters were transferred to the place of that name, called after Mr. W. Roberts, a well known collector of the district who was deputed to Mirzapur in 1847 as settlement officer to settle the Singrauli pargana. The remaining parganas and tappas that were left *huzur tahsil* in 1809 are divided between the Chunar tahsil, constituted in 1845, and the Family Domains. Though annexed to the Mirzapur district, parganas Bhadohi and Kera Mangraur have remained under separate jurisdiction since the agreement with Raja Mahip Narayan Singh in 1794.

Fiscal history.

There are thus no intricate changes of subdivisional limits to confuse an account of the fiscal history of Mirzapur, and the task is rendered all the more simple by the fact that nearly the whole of the district has, since 1795, been permanently settled. Strictly speaking the account of this history begins with the assumption of the control of the province of Benares by the British Government in 1775; but the actual administration of the tract was not undertaken by English officers until 1794, the date of the agreement with Raja Mahip Narayan Singh; and it is not until 1787, when Mr. Jonathan Duncan actively intervened in the revenue management of the province, that there is anything of importance to record. The fundamental principles of administration adopted by Balwant Singh were, firstly, to destroy the authority and influence of the large landholders of the parganas and villages, and, secondly, to extend cultivation by protecting the proprietary and non-proprietary cultivators. The pargana *zamindars* were deprived by him of their administrative functions, dispossessed of their private estates, and either killed or banished. In their place *amils* were appointed, many of them kinsmen of the Raja, and to them the parganas were given in farm year by year. To assure the extensive cultivation of the country, Raja Balwant Singh laid down

a strict rule that the entire rents of the husbandmen should be received from them each year before the commencement of the rainy season so that they might apply themselves vigorously to cultivation without molestation from the collectors of the revenue. The revenue system was thus practically a *ryotwari* one; the *amils* or revenue collectors had extensive tracts of country under their jurisdiction and it was not practicable for them to trouble individual cultivators with controversies regarding rent rates. If they wished to enhance rents, the method adopted by them was to impose *abwab* or cesses in addition to the fixed rentals; but even their power of imposing cesses was vigilantly restricted by the fixation of a uniform cess of Re. 1-9-0 per cent. over and above the general pargana rent-rate; and there is little doubt but that, under this system of management, the country prospered, cultivation yearly increased, the revenue was easily collected, and the people were on the whole contented. The merit of vigour possessed by the administration of Balwant Singh appears to have characterised that of his successor, Chet Singh; but after the latter's rebellion and expulsion in 1781, the fixed revenue or tribute payable to the British by the Raja of Benares was raised from twenty-two to forty lakhs of rupees a year, the new Raja was a minor, and the administration was entrusted to the resident, assisted by a native deputy of the Raja, who abstained from all active interference in the administration of the Raja's possessions. During the next seven years the *amils* were allowed to disregard the rule prohibiting them from making collections during the first three months of the rainy season and were permitted unchecked to impose cesses which in some cases rose as as high as 16 per cent. The result of this change in the system of administration soon became apparent. The extent of fallow yearly increased, wells fell into disrepair, the superior crops were replaced by common grains, and the revenue was realized with ever-increasing difficulty. A very short time convinced Mr. Duncan who was appointed resident in 1787 that it would be useless to expect the Raja to exert himself in the direction of reforms. Even so simple a measure as the issue of an improved and uniform lease and counterpart for engagement with the landholders, by which Mr. Duncan hoped to abolish some of the irregularities that had crept into the system of collections, met with strenuous opposition and was, in

the end, unwillingly and perfunctorily carried out. Every effort was made by him to employ the Raja as the instrument of the reformation of the country to avoid any detraction of the latter's dignity; but, the task proving hopeless, he at length sought and obtained the sanction of the Governor General in Council "to take upon himself the entire conduct and formation of the new settlement of 1196 *fasli*, availing himself of the Raja's interposition no further than he might think proper."

The settlement of 1788-89.

The reforms which Mr. Duncan had attempted to get Raja Mahip Narayan Singh to introduce into the revenue administration of the country were embodied in a set of regulations which were confirmed by a resolution of the Governor General in Council on October 3rd, 1788; and it was the principles laid down in these regulations that Mr. Duncan followed in the famous settlement of 1196 *fasli* or 1788-89 A. D. Besides the issue of a uniform lease and counterpart to the cultivators, these regulations provided for the determination of grain-rents by the method of appraisement and the specification of the Raja's share of the produce, thus reducing all rent to money-rent; and the restoration of the land formerly enjoyed by them to the pargana *qanungos*, who, under Mahip Narayan's administration, had become mere puppets in the hands of the *amils*. But the most important provisions were the abolition of all the cesses or enhancements of rent imposed between the years 1187 and 1196 *fasli*, and the adoption of the consolidated rent-rate and cesses in force in 1187 as the single rate payable by the cultivators. The year 1187 *fasli* (1779-80 A. D.) was selected because it was the last complete year of Chet Singh's management and because it was on the general revenue obtained in it that the settlement for forty lakhs was made between Warren Hastings and Raja Mahip Narayan Singh. The services of *amils* were retained for the collection of the revenue from the cultivators, but competition was abolished between them; the sum to be collected by them was assessed by Mr. Duncan on the basis of the rates of 1187 *fasli*, and they became mere collectors who were remunerated with an allowance of 10 per cent. on their collections.

The resident's original intention had been to base his assessments on a general measurement of the cultivated area in each

estate. But between October and December 1788 he found that this would involve so much delay that he abandoned this portion of his original scheme; and so it came to pass that the settlement was never based on measurement. For the latter were substituted the *dauls* or estimates of the pargana *qanungos*. From December 13th up to the end of the month all these persons attended the resident at Benares and furnished their estimates of the available revenue assets of each village in their respective parganas. These estimates were examined and considered separately by the resident. In most cases they were accepted and made the basis of the settlement of the revenue payable by the *amils*, in some few cases, where they appeared too low, the principle of competition was admitted to a very limited extent and the revenue of the *amil* was, with his consent, fixed at a somewhat higher amount. A new form of engagement was at the same time prescribed for the *amils*. This provided that they should collect the village rents according to the estimates of the *qanungos*; that they should abide by the leases granted to the cultivators in accordance with the orders of June 25th, 1788; that they should abstain from demanding custom duties and cesses of every description; and that they should be responsible for the arrest and submission for trial of all persons committing theft, robbery, murder and affrays within their jurisdictions. The *amils* in fact became mere collectors of revenue and in the last clause of their engagement can be traced the origin of the *dahyak tahsildari* system. The settlement was intended to be for one year only, but it was found that large tracts of country were in so backward a condition as a result of the Raja's mismanagement that the revenue enforced in 1779 or 1187 *fasli* was in 1788 a demand impossible of realization. In view of this the resident accepted a proposal on the part of the Raja to grant progressive leases for five years in backward tracts with the hope of encouraging cultivation. Thus it came about that in a large portion of the province the settlement became a quinquennial one.

The permanent settlement.

While Mr. Duncan was engaged in endeavouring to reform the revenue administration of Benares, the Governor General in Council was occupied in the consideration of a revenue system devised by Mr. Law, collector of Bihar. The news of these deliberations appear to have reached Mr. Duncan; for in a letter to

Lord Cornwallis, dated December 1788, he suggests the possibilities of the introduction of Mr. Law's system into Benares. He did not again mention the subject in his report of April 26th, 1789, when reporting his assessments of the previous year for sanction, but with a view to the preparation of a new settlement in 1197 *fasli* he issued a comprehensive order which introduced several new principles. Firstly, the regulations of June 25th, 1788, as regards leases to cultivators, were enforced and maintained. Secondly, the *zamindars* were ordered "to attend upon the *amils*, in view to the cultivation of their respective *zamindaris* and to enter into engagements according to the estimates of the *canoongoes* for the same period as remain to elapse of the *amils'* settlement with Government, and to give creditable security (for the punctual payment of their revenue) and to enter into possession of their *zamindari*." This had reference to the parganas in which five-yearly leases had been granted the year before. If the *zamindars* refused to attend or engage for their village on a fair rent, their villages might be granted to "improving and substantial farmers," while in cases where villages or estates had been divided into shares and the owners of the shares had always remained in separate possession the sharers were to be granted leases for their several shares. As regards leases in general, it was laid down that the amount payable was to be distinctly stated in them and that village lessees were themselves to give the cultivators leases as prescribed in the regulations of June 25th, 1788. The resident explains that he thought this regulation was a consistent sequel to those of 1788 and "was conformable in spirit and tendency to those which the Hon'ble Court of Directors had transmitted for effecting a permanent settlement of the three provinces of Bengal, Bihar and Orissa." He did not think, however, that the Raja would ever acquiesce heartily in a "permanency to the *zamindari* of the villages under him." "It has been the mistaken and narrow policy," he writes, "of himself and his predecessors from the time of Balwant Singh to the present to depress them and to render their rights of little or no avail; still, however, from the natural necessity of the case they are permitted to rent most of the villages, not indeed on any permanent footing but as annual farmers, subordinate to other

under-farmers who are again dependent on the *amil* of the pargana who pays to the Raja's treasury. In this state of fluctuation and depression they are for the most part reduced to a very low and indigent state, from which it is one of the objects of the present regulation gradually to restore them, so as to enable them to become in due time the universal and permanent renters of their villages, either under an *amil* or otherwise, by paying immediately to the Raja, should the general abolition of amilships be hereafter ever resolved upon. For the rest, it is not meant, nor do the present regulations at all intend to restore any *zamindar* of parganas or rather large portions of land, but merely to afford some permanency to those of the villages, who are actually in possession but have long been treated on the footing of mere annual farmers." It is to be observed that whereas the settlement proceedings of 1196 *fasli* had made provision for leases to two classes only, the actual cultivators for their fields and the *amils* for their parganas, the orders of June 14th, 1789 enacted and regulated the issue of an intermediate class of lease, that is from *amils* to village managers. In 1196 no regulations were made with regard to village management; but in 1197 *fasli* all this was changed; the *amils* were no longer to be allowed to retain direct management of the villages as they could before, nor to entrust them to strangers except when the owners were recusant; and they were required to give leases to the *zamindars* for four years, that is, for the unexpired portions of their own leases. These orders are important as establishing the general principle of restoration of village *zamindars*; but they were too vague as originally issued to be carried out. For large tracts of country, in which there had formerly been pargana *zamindars*, no village *zamindars* were to be found; and in many estates, owing to disputes between rival tribes or families or to the multiplicity of owners, it was impossible to discover the exact share of each individual.

The resident's great despatch of April 26th, 1789, contains a report on his proceedings after the receipt of the orders of the Governor General, dated October 3rd, 1788. It was acknowledged in the Governor General's despatch of June 17th, 1789, and all his proceedings were confirmed. The Board of Revenue at the same time took the opportunity of transmitting to the resident a copy

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of instructions issued by the Government relative to the formation of a permanent settlement with the landholders in the province of Bihar. "Although a lease for a term of years," they add, "is less exceptionable than an annual settlement, we cannot but be of opinion that the benefits expected from it are very inconsiderable when compared with the great and lasting advantages that would result from a system which has for its object the ascertaining and limiting the demand of Government on its subjects, and securing them in perpetuity the quiet enjoyment of the fruit of their industry." The resident's sentiments were solicited regarding the expediency of introducing a similar plan of settlement into the province of Benares at the commencement of the ensuing year. The second clause of the instructions referred to provided that "a settlement be made for a period of ten years certain with a notification that, if approved by the Court of Directors, it will become permanent and no further alteration take place at the expiration of ten years." It is noticeable that not only is this resolution of the Governor General in Council dated three days later than Mr. Duncan's own orders of June, 1789, but that it did not reach him until the 6th of July; and that therefore Mr. Duncan had no official authority from the Government for issuing his orders of the 14th June. In the circumstances it appears probable that the resident had received a confidential sanction to his proceedings from the Governor General himself or that the matter of the despatch of June 17th had been previously communicated to him unofficially. Soon after the arrival of the despatch Mr. Duncan had an interview with the Raja of Benares After assuring him of the good will of the Government towards himself, he explained to him the general principles of the system now contemplated. At the same time he intimated the readiness of the Government to restore the management of the province to the Raja, if the latter joined heartily in carrying out the system; and ultimately obtained his entire concurrence in the scheme. The same month the first orders were issued for a decennial settlement in the Ghazipur pargana, a set of additional instructions being framed for the guidance of the assessing officer. These instructions, among other things, contained one clause of far-reaching importance; for it was laid down that a paragraph should be entered in each counterpart of a lease to the

effect that "whatever balance may be incurred in the amount of the proprietor's engagements shall be recovered by the sequestration and sale of the proprietor's property, including the land of his *zamindari* or share, whenever Government shall order the same to be put up at auction sale." The settlement was to be made with the *zamindars* conformably to the rules of June 14th, 1789; this conferred proprietary right on the hereditary owners. But the additional instructions of July introduced the pernicious system of auction sales which went far to nullify the benefits of the permanent settlement in later years, though the full force of the step now taken was not appreciated at the time, as indeed the idea of proprietary right was hardly understood. In the following month of August orders were given for a ten years' settlement of two other parganas on the same plan; and on the 21st of the same month Mr. Duncan held a conference with the Raja on the subject of extending the ten years' settlement to the whole province. The Raja declared his conviction of the advantage of a ten years' settlement and it was agreed that if the settlements which the *amils* holding on five years' leases were instructed to make with the *zamindars* for the four remaining years of their leases should meet with the approval of the Raja, the demand of the last year should be extended for six more years. After this conference Mr. Duncan, on the 8th of September, applied for permission to visit Calcutta for the purpose of having a "nearer and personal communication," regarding the ensuing settlement. Permission being granted, Mr. Duncan left for Calcutta on October 2nd. He returned on November 9th. No account of what took place on this occasion is forthcoming, but it would appear that the resident's proceedings were approved and also that a resolution was arrived at to grant leases only to those of the village *zamindars* who had at any time held possession by way of farm or otherwise of the villages or lands of which they claimed hereditary possession since the year 1775, when the province of Benares was first ceded to the Company. After his return from Calcutta the resident vigorously commenced the revision and completion of the pargana settlements. He settled Jaunpur himself; Messrs. Neave and Treves completed the settlement of some parganas in Ghazipur, while Ballia and the other districts were assessed by *amils*

under Mr. Duncan's own superintendence. The parganas which had originally been settled for only one year or in which five years' leases had been forfeited or resigned were resettled with the *zamindars*; while in those which had been already let for a term of years the demand assessed was generally the demand of the last year of the lease and became payable for six more years. The settlement thus concluded consisted in the taking of engagements for a stipulated sum from village *zamindars* for about eight-twelfths of the country and in the granting of leases to farmers for about three-twelfths, the remaining one-twelfth remaining unleased.

The proceedings appear to have been rapid, for a detailed report on the pargana assessments was submitted on November 25th, 1790 and was confirmed by the Govêrnor General in Council on February 11th, 1791, the Government resolution at the same time affirming two new important principles, namely that a settlement of the *zamindari* of Benares be made for a period of ten years, commencing with the year 1196 *fasli*, and that the settlement remain unaltered during the lives of the holders of leases. The following years, during two of which Mr. Duncan was absent from the district, were taken up with matters of general administration, the question of the constitution of civil courts and the definition of the rights and obligations of landholders; and it was during this time that the Raja of Benares appears to have withdrawn his objection to the restitution of the village *zamindars* who had been dispossessed prior to July 1st, 1775. In 1793 the decennial settlement of the provinces of Bengal, Bihar and Orissa was declared perpetual, and ultimately in 1795 were passed the famous Regulations I, II and XXVII of 1795, upon which depends the perpetuity of the Benares settlement of 1789-90. By Regulation I it was laid down "that the revenue payable according to the quartennial and decennial *pottahs* shall remain fixed for ever, so long as the leaseholders and their representatives shall continue to discharge and perform the conditions specified." It is further enacted that on the death of a farmer holding a lease for lands the owner of which was dispossessed previous to July 1st, 1775, the *zamindar* or his heirs shall be restored to the estate; while *zamindars* who held possession of their estates since July 1st, 1775, but were neverthless excluded at the formation of the permanent

settlement may recover possession of their estates from farmers by proving in court the fact of their possession subsequent to July 1st, 1775. Regulation II re-enacted, with modifications and amendments, the rules passed from time to time regarding the temporary and permanant settlement of the revenue; while Regulation XXVII provided for the perpetuity of all future settlements in the province and defined the duties and rights of landholders. At the same time the Raja's claim to the surplus revenue of the province was commuted to an annual payment of one lakh of rupees, and from this time he ceased to have any concern in the administration of the province outside his own *jagirs*.

The re nue.

The permanent settlement in Mirzapur extended to the whole of the district except pargana Singrauli, including Dudhi, and the Family Domains. In the latter only the demand to be paid by the Raja to the Government was fixed in perpetuity, while the former escaped settlement altogether. The revenue assessed is shown in the appendix,* where a table gives the details for each pargana. The total for the district was Rs. 8,13,051 including the demand on the Raja of Benares for the pargana of Bhadohi, but excluding that for the revenue-free pargana of Kera-Mangraur and the pargana of Singrauli, including Dudhi, which was then considered an appanage of Agori-Barhar. The demand has been increased since; but the additions are in no way due to an enhancement of the original demand. They have their origin in the assessment of estates that escaped settlement in 1790, the resumptions of revenue-free grants, the alterations of the demand on alluvial areas and to the transfer of villages from other districts. Special arrangements were made with the Rajas of Kantit, Agori-Barhar and Singrauli, and of these an account will be found either in Chapter III or in the pargana articles. It is not easy to gauge with any accuracy the incidence of the demand at the time when it was assessed; but it is generally considered that it must have been severe. The conception of rent was not then clearly defined, and the basis of assessment was rates representing the share of the State in the gross produce of each field, and distributed over the cultivated area. No inference can be safely drawn from the fact that the present incidence of Mr. Duncan's demand on the total cultivated area is about half the average

* Appendix, table XV.

rent-rate now paid by tenants at fixed rates, as it would omit to take into account the great increase in cultivation, which, though there are no exact data for comparison, most undoubtedly have taken place since the time when his assessments were made. But if severe, it appears to have been distributed with great justice, and the number of cases where, at the present day, it is inappropriate are few. Attempts have been made to estimate what revenue might now be assessed on this tract, and by comparing it with the revenue actually paid to calculate the loss to the Government which is due to the permanent settlement. Thus at the revision of records in 1886 the corrected rental of the cultivated area in the Gangetic valley was estimated at Rs. 10,54,381. The demand of this portion of the district stood at the same time at Rs. 4,51,565, the percentage on the assets being 42·8. If the rest of the district which did not come under operations at that time be included the difference between the actual revenue demand and what might now be assessed may be estimated at over a lakh of rupees.

Survey and record-of-rights, 1840.

The chief objection to the permanent settlement lay in the fact that it was incomplete. The settlement was made on the basis of estimates and approximate information; there was no regular survey of fields, no scientific adjustment of the revenue to the rental value of the land, and no record-of-rights. The first difficulty arose over the absence of boundaries; and numberless disputes sprang up between the owners of the various *pattis* on the question of possession or the want of correspondence between actual possession and the extent of shares theoretically determined by ancestral right. Again, although the whole body of "ancient *zamindars*" had been recognised as proprietors at the settlement, engagements for the payment of the demand had been taken from "managers appointed by their whole body," now usually known as *lambardars*, to avoid trouble; but the latter in process of time ceased to be representative of the proprietary body, while their status gave them an unfair advantage. In other cases leading families or the stronger members of the community appropriated the *zamindari* right and the weaker men were reduced to mere tenants of their *sir* land. Further trouble was caused in some instances by the rigid system of collection; for when a proprietor or a community fell into arrears recourse was readily had to sale; and

thus on account of temporary balances the land was alienated in perpetuity. An attempt was made to remedy these defects in Regulation VIII of 1800. It was laid down that a register should be prepared showing the name of each estate and of the proprietor, a detailed statement of the estates in each pargana, the measurement of each village and the gross rental. In practice this proved of little use, for the proprietors meant merely the *lambardars* of the permanent settlement, and no records of areas and holdings were in existence. Under Regulation XII of 1817 the duties of *patwaris* were defined. They were directed to submit returns twice yearly showing the returns of each harvest, the tenants and the areas held by them; but these returns were of little value. It was not until what may be called the Settlement Regulations, VII of 1822 and IX of 1833, were passed that a complete record of rights in the province was prepared. The necessity for these arose primarily in the ceded and conquered provinces, where the promise of a permanent settlement had been made but subsequently deferred until a detailed enquiry had been made into "the capabilities of the land and the rights of the various classes having interests therein." A permanent settlement was never carried out in those provinces, but minute records were prepared in them for the settlement under Regulation IX of 1833 and have been maintained to the present day: and later the provisions of the Regulation were applied to the permanently settled districts. A survey of the whole province was ordered by the Government in 1829; and the Board of Revenue, taking advantage of the opportunity, ordered a simultaneous revision of settlement and the preparation of village papers in accordance with the Regulation. The survey of Mirzapur which was undertaken by Captain Wroughton in 1839 and completed in 1841 may be described as a boundary survey for revenue purposes. Village maps were prepared generally on the scale of four inches to the mile and pargana maps on the scale of two inches to the mile; but in the preparation of the village maps care was not taken to give accurately the position, size or boundaries of the existing fields nor were the village boundaries in all cases properly demarcated. In the upland portion of the district the maps were far less accurate than those in the Gangetic valley; and where the cultivated area was small and

fluctuating, the waste lands and jungles of great extent, and where fields are abandoned after one or two croppings, the maps soon became useless as a guide to the real cultivation of a village or as an aid to the courts on the occasion of boundary disputes. In fact, in the jungle tracts, the boundaries were often mere guesswork, as the *amins* were afraid to enter the forests which then swarmed with dangerous beasts; and the wilder the country became, the worse and more imperfect were the maps. Between 1841 and 1847 the formation of a record of rights was completed and the revision of the settlement of unassessed lands was carried out by Messrs. Raikes, Barnes and Wynyard. The work was in itself arduous in the absence of any records since the permanent settlement, but its difficulty was enormously increased by the inferiority of the maps and the omissions and inaccuracies of the *khasras*. The *khewats* or registers of proprietary right which these officers drew up did not contain the names of all the persons possessing different kinds of proprietary interests in the land. In some instances the *pattidari* tenures were so intricate and conflicting that the determination of them was deliberately shirked. The rights and interests of sub-proprietors, rent-free holders and other intermediate tenure-holders were not ascertained and recognised; and the *jamabandis* or registers of cultivating rights did not give any proper specification or classification of tenants. Lastly the *wajib-ul-arz* or record of village customs was nothing more than a statement, drawn out by the assistant settlement officer and signed by the *patwari* and *zamindar*, giving merely the name, area and Government demand of the village.

Revision of 1878—1885.

These inaccuracies and omissions were again much exaggerated by neglect during a long series of years. The changes in the shape, position and areas of fields were never entered in the *khasras* or shown in the maps, with the result that the maps, bad enough to start with, ceased soon to serve as a guide to the actual features of the land. Similarly, changes and alterations in the holdings of cultivators or proprietors were never duly enquired into or properly recorded in the *jamabandis* and *khewats*. The former failed to define or specify the *sir* lands of *zamindars* and in contested cases of ejectment or determination of class of tenure the courts were left to determine the issues as to whether certain fields were *sir* or not on oral evidence. Again an entirely fictitious rent was recorded,

and the registration of alienations and transfers of cultivatory holdings were habitually neglected. The condition of the *khewats* was almost worse. They contained the names of men who had died or lost their proprietary rights in the *mahal*, while they omitted to show the names of sub-proprietors or rent-free holders. They failed to show the amount of revenue demandable from each co-sharer, a defect which afforded endless reasons for litigation and greatly impeded the collection of the Government revenue. The evil became formidable after a series of years. The courts hesitated to receive the papers as sufficient proof of anything either entered or omitted. Now under the permanent settlement some tenures had assumed a fixity and value unknown elsewhere; and a large area was held by tenants at fixed rates or occupancy rates who had freely transferred their holdings under every form of conveyance. The more valuable the sub-tenures became by lapse of time, the greater the friction which arose between landlord and tenant. Litigation increased and the difficulty in deciding cases became at last so great not only in Mirzapur but also in the other permanently settled districts that at length an order was issued, directing a revision of the records-of-rights. On September 20th, 1878, a notification was issued (No. 2830A.) declaring that a record of rights was to be prepared under section 36 (2), Act XIX of 1873 for Kon, Majhwa, Qariat Sikhar, Haveli Chunar and Bhuili; to these Chhiyanve and Chaurasi were soon after added (G. O. no. 3058A, dated October 10th, 1878). Later on it was proposed to demarcate and prepare a record-of-irghts for the upland portion of the district lying between the Vindhyan hills and the Kaimur range, comprising parganas Upraudh, Saktesgarh, Barhar, Bijaigarh and portions of Bhagwat and Ahraura. When, however, the cost of the undertaking was estimated, it was found that the expenditure that would be involved would be too large to be justified by the interests at stake; and it was finally decided that a cadastral survey should be completed for the whole district as far as the Kaimur range, but that the revision of the record-of-rights should be confined to the Gangetic valley. The survey was carried out by Colonel F. C. Anderson; operations commenced at the end of 1879 and were completed in 1882. They embraced the whole district except parganas Agori, Singrauli, Dudhi and 64 villages in Bijaigarh. These and the

upland portion of Kera Mangraur were surveyed topographically under the superintendence first of Colonel Anderson and then of Mr. Patterson between the years 1882-83 and 1886-87. The record-of-rights carried out by Mr. Dale which was not completed until 1885 consisted of three statements, *khewats* or records of proprietary rights, *jamabandis* or records of cultivating rights, and the *wajib-ul arz* or the record of village customs. These documents correspond to those in use throughout the province and call for no special mention. All rights both of proprietors, sub-proprietors and cultivators were accurately determined and recorded in them. Three other matters were undertaken, the revision of the acreage cess, the revision of the *patwaris'* circles and the distribution of the revenue demand. The first of these will be subsequently mentioned. The second was a work of some labour, and it was found that the old arrangements were both faulty and inconvenient. Villages situated at opposite extremes of parganas were grouped together under one *patwari* simply because they happened to belong to the same proprietary body; and while some circles were unmanageably large, others were too small. The circles were reduced or enlarged and rendered compact according to circumstances. The distribution of the revenue demand was effected in different ways. In some cases it was only found necessary to record existing payments which had remained unrecorded. In large estates composed of many *mauzas* held by single individuals, the *mauzawar* distribution of the *mahalwar jama* was made by apportioning the demand either according to the area of each village or according to its assets. In large *taluqas*, held by a body of proprietors in which the shares in each component part of the *mahal* were the same, the *mauzawar jamas* were ascertained by summation of the *jamas* on each holding in the *mauza*. In a *mahal* held by a body of proprietors in which the shares in the component villages or parts of villages were not uniform the *mauzawar jama* was obtained by ascertaining the amount hitherto paid by each shareholder or group of shareholders and then distributing this amount over the holdings of each shareholder or group with reference to the assets of those holdings. Some slight trouble was met with at first in obtaining the consent of the large proprietors, but with a few exceptions the distribution

was carried out without difficulty and with the consent of the landholders. Since then there has been no revision of records in northern Mirzapur, but on the basis of the records then drawn up the usual annual returns are prepared by *patwaris.*

Settlements in Dudhi.

It has already been shown in dealing with the tenures of the district how the Dudhi tappas were declared to be at the disposal of the Government in 1853 and how they were settled by Mr. W. Roberts between 1849 and 1856 with *zamindars* and *sapurdars.* Mr. Roberts' arrangements continued in force for some years. Early in 1865, however, Mr. McChlery reported that cultivation had in most villages trebled or quadrupled since the time of Mr. Roberts; and measurements were sanctioned with a view to increase the demand in 94 villages where alone resettlement was deemed possible. The work was badly done, owing chiefly to the want of proper and efficient supervision, and the principal result was an increase of only Rs. 755 in the demand of 78 villages. Neither the measurement nor the demand was considered final, and the question of a resettlement was opened by Mr. Pollock in 1868. No definite orders, however, were passed in the matter until 1870-71 when Dudhi was visited by Sir William Muir, the Lieutenant-Governor, a reminiscence of whose visit has been left in the name of the village of Muirpur. The orders of the Government finally passed may be briefly summarised. There was to be no *zamindari* settlement in favour of any one, but only in favour of *sapurdars.* The latter were to be divided into two classes; *sapurdars* who had proved their fitness by successful management, to be called hereditary or *maurusi sapurdars*, and simple *sapurdars* who had not yet proved their fitness to be hereditary and whose office would be secured to them only for the term of the settlement. Where existing *sapurdars* had managed badly the leading and most influential cultivator was to be selected *sapurdar. Sapurdars* were to be given the power of taking up within the boundaries of the *mauza* fresh cultivation from the waste on their own account, of arranging for the breaking up of fresh fields by cultivators of their own or adjoining villages. The cultivators' right in permanent fields managed or reclaimed by them on their own account was made hereditary; the assessment was to be imposed only on permanently cultivated lands, fields

only temporarily cleared and sown being unassessed; and the term of settlement was fixed for ten years. The preliminary work of settlement was at once taken in hand by Mr. Pollock in 1871-72, the village boundaries being surveyed with the theodolite and the fields measured off with the plain table; *sapurdars* were selected and the rights of tenants with leases determined. The next step in an ordinary settlement would have been the assumption of standard rent-rates. But this work was rendered unnecessary in Dudhi owing to the existence of the custom of making rents proportional, not to the area and quality of the land, but to the number of ploughs used by the cultivators. The rate per plough varies in different villages, but never in the same village. Given therefore the number of ploughs, the rental of the village can be fixed with the greatest accuracy. One difficulty, however, arose. The *sapurdars* had been for many years in much the same position as the landlords, engaging from time to time for the farm of the Government revenue; and they declined to convert themselves into mere rent collectors for the small commission of 10 per cent. which it was originally proposed to give them. As these *sapurdars* were the most influential men in the villages, there was every chance of the settlement breaking down; and Mr. Pollock's appeal on their behalf resulted in an order that their commission should be raised to 20 per cent. The settlement then proceeded smoothly. The number of ploughs, the plough rate, and the rental derived therefrom, were ascertained in 36 out of the 79 *mahals*. *Sapurdars* were nominated, whose remuneration was fixed at the rate just mentioned, and to such cultivators as were not tenants-at-will were promised leases for ten years at the rates they were then paying. Notwithstanding the fact that rates remained unaltered, the result of the proposed assessment was an increase in the demand from Rs. 2,688 to Rs. 4,534 excluding the *sapurdar* commission. The engagements provided that the old permanent cultivation should be maintained at its existing extent and that any culpable failure to maintain it should render the *sapurdar* liable to loss of office; and further that if the cultivators deserted permanent cultivation in order to break up waste, any diminution of rental so caused should be made up by the *sapurdar* from the rents he received from the cultivators.

Besides the 33 estates settled with *sapurdars* there were 28 others which Mr. Pollock set aside to be held for the present under the direct management of the collector. These were chiefly tracts lately reclaimed, which, though possessing a good soil, were occupied by men without sufficient capital and influence to improve them. One of the cultivators was told off to collect and pay in the rent of each, being allowed to hold one plough gratis for his trouble. In this season arrangements were made in 64 out of the 79 estates in the pargana. In the following winter, 1872-73, the work was proceeded with by Mr. Pollock's successor, Mr. Robertson. The rent-rolls and abstracts of cultivators, left unfinished by Mr. Pollock, were completed, an error which was detected in the estimate of the number of ploughs causing an increase of Rs. 824 in the demand on the villages already settled. The fifteen estates, including twelve *mahals* in Dudhi and Pulwa and the whole of Gonda Bajia (two *mahals*) and the village of Hirachak, were next taken in hand. The Dudhi and Pulwa estates were all with one exception (Kirwani, a remote village which had been deserted) settled in *sapurdari* tenure at a demand of Rs. 789. But in the other *mahals* some difficulty arose. The landholders there had long understood themselves to be *zamindars*, and had, on the strength of the supposition, spent money in improving their villages. They had, moreover, at least in Gonda-Bajia, kept little land under their own personal cultivation, and would therefore have to pay a larger share of the Government rental than was usual amongst *sapurdars* elsewhere. They were profoundly dissatisfied with the terms offered them, and as there was a likelihood of their deserting their villages, Mr. Robertson proposed that the Gonda landholders should be allowed to retain two-fifths, those of Bajia two-thirds, and those of Hirachak three-sevenths of the rental. The remaining operations of the year included the survey of a large number of estates and the demarcation of the forest area from that of the culturable waste. This work with other matters was taken up in the winter of 1873-74. The boundaries of new villages in Dudhi and Pulwa were marked off, and maps of these tappas were prepared. But the creation of new villages gave rise to a fresh difficulty. The *sapurdars* from whose *mauzas* they had been separated became discontented with the loss of land which they had regarded as private

grazing ground. Their feelings were so strong that a compromise had to be effected, and it was ultimately decided that the new villages should be settled yearly with the *sapurdars* of the parent villages at the ordinary allowance of 20 per cent. At the close of the season's operations the village boundaries in Gonda-Bajia and Barha were still unmarked, while the bulk of those tappas remained to be surveyed; but licences or *sanads* were granted to all *sapurdas* save those of Gonda-Bajia and Hirachak, where the exact terms of the engagement had not been yet fixed; and leases, in a printed form and in accordance with the village papers, were distributed to all cultivators except those of Barha, Gonda-Bajia and the directly managed estates. Lastly the settlement record for each village, with a final proceeding, was prepared. During the winter of 1874-75 little was done, but one important question was settled, namely the amount of remuneration to be conceded to the *sapurdars.* On the representations of the Board of Revenue the Government ultimately consented to allow the hereditary *sapurdars* 30 per cent. on their collections and non-hereditary *sapurdars* 20 per cent., at the same time directing that neither should be required to pay anything more on their *sir* land. Operations were finally concluded in 1875-76. Gonda-Bajia and Barha were surveyed, new villages were marked off in all the tappas, and the areas of the reserved forest amounting to 21,275 acres in Gonda-Bajia and 26,893 acres in Barha were defined. Finally the demands of the villages were readjusted in accordance with the concessions of 1875 with the result that the new revenue assessed amounted to Rs. 5,748 in the *sapurdari* villages and Rs. 1,188 in the *zamindari* tappa of Gonda-Bajia and the village of Hirachak. If to this sum be added the net rental of the villages under direct management, Rs. 1,647, the total land assessment amounted to Rs. 8,582. The settlement was sanctioned for a term of ten years beginning from 1876-77.

Revision of 1886-87. The task of the revision of this settlement devolved on Mr. Dale, then collector of Mirzapur. He proposed that no resurvey should take place but that the *patwaris'* papers should be thoroughly tested and, if found to be correct, should be made the basis of the new settlement. Plough rates were to be retained, but plough areas were limited to a standard of eight *bighas* for permanent cultivation, 13 *bighas* for intermittent cultivation, and 12 *bighas* for a

mixed holding, 5 *bighas* being permanent and 7 intermittent. *Sapurdars* were to be allowed rent-free the same number of ploughs that had been left to them rent-free at the last settlement; *sapurdars' khudkasht* lands were to be assessed at full tenants' plough rates, and the commission to *sapurdars* was to be considerably curtailed, old rates being allowed on all old tenants' ploughs, but on all new ploughs 15 per cent. only being given instead of 30 per cent. to hereditary *sapurdars* and 10 per cent. in lieu of 20 per cent. to non-hereditary *sapurdars*. These proposals were sanctioned by the Government and the settlement was carried out according to them, It was found that in the *sapurdari mahals* cultivation had increased by 20,114 *bighas*, ploughs by 2,261, tenants by 1,663, and the gross rental by Rs. 8,961. The total demand assessed according to the new principles of settlement laid down was Rs. 11,800 as against Rs. 5,960 at the previous settlement, or nearly double the old demand. Mr. Dale maintained that the increase was too great and that in the year of settlement the estate was in a very flourishing condition which might not last. He proposed that a mean should be taken between the returns of this year and the average of the rent-rolls of the previous ten years ; but the Board of Revenue rejected the proposal and directed that the full demand should be reached in progressive stages in four or five years. In the *zamindari* tappa of Gonda-Bajia and the village of Hirachak the cultivated area had risen by 12,090 *bighas*, the number of ploughs by 956 and the rental by Rs. 2,970. On this Mr. Dale fixed a demand of Rs. 2,500 ; but owing to the enormous increase, the full demand was only reached by progressive instalments in the fifth year. There remain the estates under direct management. Three of these during the currency of the settlement had become what is known as *kham sapurdari* estates and 12 more were created such by Mr. Dale. In the three existing ones the *sapurdars'* commission amounted to a remission of three-fourths of the rent of their *sir* land and a commission of 20 per cent on the collections from tenants ; but in the 12 newly created ones only half the rent of *sir* land was remitted and a commission of only 10 per cent. was allowed on collections. The gross assets of the *kham* and *kham sapurdari* estates was Rs. 3,260 and on this a demand of Rs. 2,949 was fixed.

Revision of 1897-98

The last revision of settlement was carried out by Maulvi Muhammad Ahmad, assistant settlement officer and deputy collector, in subordination to Mr. J. A. Broun, settlement officer and collector of Mirzapur, in 1897-98. The details of this need not detain us long. In the *sapurdari* tappas cultivation had increased by only 546 acres. A large area of intermittent cultivation had fallen out, but this was compensated in part by a large increase in permanent cultivation and the gross rental was larger by Rs. 4,334. The number of ploughs and of tenants had also increased and the demand on these villages was enhanced to Rs. 18,698. Similarly in the *zamindari* villages of Gonda-Bajia there had been an increase of cultivation amounting to 831 acres and of the rental by Rs. 2,711. The demand assessed was Rs. 3,756, or a rise of Rs. 1,208. The Board of Revenue accepted the proposals with the modifications that Rs. 3,500 would be a sufficiently high demand in Gonda-Bajia, that the final demand should only be reached in the third year, and that in the *sapurdari mahals* also progressive *jamas* should be allowed wherever the increase of the demand exceeded 50 per cent. Mr. Dale's settlement had been extended by one year and did not conclude till 1898 ; and the settlement should have been carried out on the figures of the year 1896-97. But that year was an exceptional one owing to drought and the returns of 1897-98 were taken finally as the basis of assessment. The proposals received the sanction of the Government in June 1899, the period of settlement being fixed at ten years, to commence in accordance with the recommendations of the Board from 1307 *fasli* or 1899-1900.

Settlements in the Family Domains.

At the time of the permanent settlement, no *mofassil* or village settlement was made in pargana Bhadohi by Mr. Duncan, and after the agreement with Mahip Narayan Singh the revenue administration was left entirely in the hands of the Raja. Settlements were effected in 1807, 1812 and 1821 by the Raja's agents and resulted in a gradual increase of the demand. During the currency of the last, Raja Udit Narayan Singh had a careful measurement made of the whole pargana with a minute enquiry into the assets from which was framed a *dadha* or detailed *jamabandi* for each village ; and the extortionate demand imposed on the basis of this document was the immediate cause of the deputation

of Mr. Bird, who suspended Udit Narayan's settlement and restored that of 1821. After the passing of Regulation VII of 1828, Mr. Thornton was sent as deputy superintendent to carry out a settlement; but he was soon superseded by Mr. Valpy under whom in 1833-34 was prepared a most incorrect rent-roll known as the *hal hasil.* This was corrected in most of the villages by Major Stewart in 1842-43, and again in 1847 a new *jamabandi* called the *sehhat hal* was promulgated in 589 estates. Mr. Valpy fixed the gross assets at Rs. 5,95,000, out of which Rs. 4,50,586 were collected in the *namanzuri* villages, while Rs. 1,44,413 yielding a revenue of Rs. 1,10,113, belonged to *manzuri* villages. Subsequently, the incorrectness of the village papers having become notorious, a settlement of the pargana was determined on and one Pandit Gopinath was deputed to carry it out under Regulations VII of 1828 and IX of 1833. The survey was begun in September 1864 and continued until October 1875, the total revenue realised being estimated at 5½ lakhs. The term of the settlement was fixed at thirty years, running from 1873 in *namanzuri* and from 1874 in *manzuri* villages. No revision of settlement has since been made.

No regular records appear to have been kept of settlements in Kera Mangraur, and those even of Mr. Valpy's settlement are not forthcoming. Major Stewart made a revision of Mr. Valpy's demand in the *mahals* where there were sub-proprietors in 1842-43; but it was not until 1887-88 that the records of the pargana were thoroughly revised by Munshi Krishan Chandra, the lowlands and the cultivated area of *taluqa* Naugarh being at the same time cadastrally surveyed. The rest of the pargana was surveyed topographically. The result showed that there were 19 *muqarrari*, 63 *muafi* and 522 villages in which the Maharaja had proprietary rights, the total *jama* paid being Rs. 1,93,329-13-0.

Cesses.

The various cesses form a considerable addition to the regular demand; in 1906-07 they amounted to Rs. 94,744, aggregating nearly 2 per cent. of the gross demand for the district apart from the Family Domains. In the temporarily settled districts of the province the only cess now levied is the 10 per cent local rate which dates from 1871 when the various old rates, such as the school, road and district post cesses, were consolidated and received

the sanction of law. There are only 11 villages, transferred from Allahabad in 1861, on which this 10 per cent. rate is now levied and the amount in 1906-07 was Rs. 415. The permanently settled villages are subject to a variety of other dues. Chief among these is the acreage cess which was introduced by the North-Western Provinces Local Rates Act XVIII of 1871 and was collected for the first time in 1871-72. The original proposal was for an uniform impost of two annas on each acre of cultivated area, but on the representations made by Mr. Pollock, the collector, a rate varying from the maximum down to one pie per acre, according to the fertility of the soil, was adopted. Some of the hilly parganas, for example Upraudh, Agori, Singrauli and Dudhi, were altogether exempted. In 1879-80, after the passing of the North-Western Provinces Local Rates Act III of 1878, the incidence of the cess was raised 25 per cent., chiefly with a view to meet the cost of the resurvey of the district; and in 1900 the rate was levied at two and a half annas an acre on land which paid a rent of Rs. 2 or more and at half that amount for land paying a rent of less than Rs. 2 but more than twelve annas an acre. *Batai* land fell into the second class, while land rented at less than 12 annas an acre and intermittent cultivation was unassessed. Under the Local and Rural Police Rate Act (United Provinces Act II of 1906), the rate was fixed at two annas for each acre which is under cultivation or which within the period of three years immediately preceding the assessment of the rate has been cultivated.* At the same time, under section 21 of the same Act, parganas Agori and Singrauli and 64 villages in pargana Bijaigarh were exempted from the provisions of the Act.† The imposition of rates in the Family Domains is regulated by the Benares Family Domains Act (United Provinces Act III of 1904). In the parganas which compose them a rate of eight pies in the rupee is levied on the annual value of the land of a tenant holding at fixed rates, a rent-free tenant and an inferior proprietor cultivating his own land; and at a rate of six pies in the rupee on the annual value of the land in the case of every other tenant.‡ The annual value

* Notification No. 3570/I—612, dated November 8th, 1906.

† Notification No. 3574/I—612, of the same date.

‡ Notification No. 591/I—597B. of 1907 (Revenue department).

according to the Act is the cash rent recorded in the village registers for tenants paying cash rents, and in cases where the rent is paid in kind or where land is held rent-free or at nominal rates of rent or is cultivated by the inferior proprietor himself, the rent which would be payable at prevailing rates by occupancy tenants of land of similar quality and with similar advantages. The road cess is not levied in the Family Domains. It is an old due, apparently first imposed in 1839-40 with the consent of the landholders for the upkeep of the roads and bridges,* and in 1906-07 the sum amounted to Rs. 9,072. There remains the payment on account of the commuted *jagirs* which, like the road cess, had its origin in the responsibility of the *zamindars,* the terms of the permanent settlement requiring them to provide for the rural police. The *chaukidars* were at first remunerated with rent free grants of land, and at the permanent settlement the produce of these *jagirs* was excluded from the assets on which assessment was made. The Government reserved the power to resume that produce, on itself undertaking to appoint the police; but even in such a case the produce of the lands was to be applied to paying those police. The Government established regular police and their payment in cash on July 1st, 1871. The *jagirs* were accordingly resumed and were settled with the *zamindars* at 85 per cent. of the rental. The receipts, however, have always been treated as a local rate and the amount in 1906-07 was Rs. 26,602. In the Family Domains the *chaukidars* still retain *jagirs* in lieu of cash wages and are not liable to rates assessed on other land.† Mirzapur is the only district of the province in which school and dâk cesses are still levied; but they are confined to those portions of the district to which the acreage rate is not extended. The amount on account of the former in 1906-07 was only one rupee and on account of the latter Rs. 70.

Police stations.

Under existing arrangements the district is divided for the purposes of police administration into twenty-two circles. These circles have an average area of 237·5 square miles, with a population of 49,2[illegible]1 persons apiece; but there are large differences as regards population among them, those situated in the densely populated tracts of the north having a far larger number of inhabitants within their

* *Historical and Statistical Memoir of the Ghazipur district* by W. Oldham, part II, page 208.

† Notification no. 596/I—597B, of 1907 (Revenue).

jurisdiction than those located above the Vindhyans and beyond the Son. Five stations, Suriawan, Bhadohi, Aurai, Gopiganj and Chakia are situated in the Family Domains. Of the remaining seventeen, Mirzapur, Bindhachal, Kachhwa, Pahari, Chunar, Chhota Mirzapur, Ahraura, Mariahan, Lalganj, Halia, Ghorawal, Robertsganj and Pannuganj are situated north of the Son. The stations at Chopan, Kon, Dudhi and Khairwa lie in the Sonpar tract. There are now no outposts.

Police force.

The police force is in the charge of the superintendent, who has under him one reserve, one prosecuting and two circle inspectors. In 1908 the civil police force comprised 36 sub-inspectors, 38 head-constables, and 383 men distributed over the various stations, with 6 sub-inspectors, 13 head constables, and 87 men on miscellaneous duties or held in reserve at the headquarters in Mirzapur. In addition to these, the armed police at Mirzapur comprised a force of one sub-inspector, 14 head-constables and 82 men. The duties of the old municipal police force have now been taken over by the regular police, and there is no body of municipal police in the district; but in the Act XX towns of Gopiganj, Kachhwa and Ghorawal, eight constables are maintained from local funds for the more efficient watch and ward of the towns. The rural police or village *chaukidars* number 1,411; and the road police, who patrol the grand trunk road and other important routes, amount in all to 88 men; while in Parganas Kera-Mangraur, Saktesgarh, Southern Chaurasi and Upraudh and throughout the Robertsganj tahsil, including the Dudhi estate, there are 1,565 *goraits* who are remunerated either by grain rents from the tenants or by land, blankets and *mahua* trees from the *zamindars*. In these tracts there are no State paid *chaukidars*.

Crime.

Statistics given in the appendix* afford some idea of the condition of the district from the point of view of criminal administration. From these it will be seen that the volume of crime is not large, but that in Mirzapur as in other districts it is apt to increase greatly in years of scarcity, as for example 1908. Far the commonest offences are petty theft and burglary, with which may be coupled cattle theft; this, from the returns, appears to have increased in frequency during the last few years. On the other

* Appendix, tables VII and VIII.

hand offences against the person have generally decreased, and there has been a notable decline in those which disturb the public tranquillity. Persons of bad character against whom action has to be taken under the preventive sections of the Code of Criminal Procedure are not numerous; and generally speaking there is little particularly to note concerning the general conduct of the inhabitants; nor are there in the district any criminal tribes or castes especially addicted to crime. Pasis probably furnish the bulk of the criminals in Mirzapur city; while at Bindhachal the constant quarrels among the Brahmans afford some difficult problems in police administration. For the rest of the district the Ganges may be said to form the dividing line criminally. To the north of the river the population is congested and offences against property are common; south of the stream the inhabitants are more scattered and more law abiding, while the jungle folk are a simple and peaceful people.

Infanticide. There appears never to have been any reason to suspect that the practice of female infanticide was prevalent in Mirzapur to any large extent; but sufficient grounds for taking measures to prevent it among the Monas Rajputs of pargana Bhadohi were forthcoming; and in 1871 twelve villages inhabited by this clan were proclaimed under the provisions of Act VIII of 1870. Three years later or in 1873 six more villages in the same pargana, inhabited by the same clan, were added to the list; and repressive measures were notified on the same occasion against the Gaharwar Rajputs of two and the Gautam Rajputs of one village. Under the standing rules issued by the Government regarding the principles which should govern action in bringing tribes on or recommending their removal from the register of proclaimed tribes the provisions of the Act were from time to time withdrawn from all these villages, with the exception of six, before the year 1888. In that year it was resolved to hold a fresh census of females among the proclaimed clans or tribes; but before the census was ever taken, the six proclaimed villages inhabited by Monás Rajputs remaining on the register were exempted on the recommendation of the inspector-general of police. Since that time Mirzapur has been held free from guilt as regards female infanticide; and nothing has occurred to suggest that the practice, if it ever existed, is still carried on.

Jail.

There is only one jail in the district. It is officially classed as a third class jail and is capable of accommodating 246 prisoners of all grades. The district *hawalat* or lock-up for under-trial prisoners, which was formerly entirely unconnected with the jail, is now included in it; and it is in this portion of the building that civil prisoners from both the district courts and the court of the native commissioner at Korh are confined. Ordinarily prisoners sentenced to not more than two years' imprisonment are kept within the jail, long-term convicts being drafted to the central prisons at Naini near Allahabad or to Benares. During the year 1907 the average daily number of prisoners in the jail was 171 of whom 10 were females. The labour exacted from the prisoners is of the usual description, and consists of mill-grinding, oil-pressing and similar work. The jail is too small to permit of special industries and the manufacture of carpets, for which Mirzapur is famous, is not a jail industry which the Government permits.

Reformatory school at Chunar.

Besides the district jail at Mirzapur, there is a reformatory school situated in the fort at Chunar: this is rather a provincial than a district institution, being the only one of its kind in the province. The commodious building which is now set apart for juvenile offencers was constituted* a reformatory school under Act VIII of 1897 on July 22nd, 1902, when it superseded the school which was used for the purpose at Bareilly. The general control of the school is vested in the director of public instruction, who is inspector-general for the purposes of the Act: but the immediate control is in the hands of the superintendent and a committee of visitors. The former is responsible for the official administration of the school in all matters affecting its internal economy and exercises all the powers laid down in the Act, while the duties of the committee of visitors, which consists of three official and three non-official members, the latter holding office for five years each, are confined to general supervision. The instruction imparted to the inmates of the school is partly secular, partly religious and moral, and partly industrial. The first takes the form of reading and writing in the vernaculars up to the upper primary standard, while the second is given, on

* Notification No. 2339/VI—40D, dated July 22nd, 1902; *vide* also No. 2505/VI—40, dated August 4th, 1902.

a theistic and unsectarian basis, three times a week for half an hour. The industries taught are such as are most likely to afford profitable employment to the boys on their release and are generally shoemaking, blacksmith's work, carpentry, gardening, clothmaking and weaving. Only boys under the age of 15 years are admitted into the school; and those belonging to certain well-known criminal tribes, whether the latter are or are not proclaimed under the Criminal Tribes Act, 1871, are specially debarred.* The average number of inmates during the past five years, 1904 to 1908, remaining in the school at the end of the year was 155.

Excise.

Excise has formed a part of the Government revenue from the earliest times. The first system pursued was that of farming tracts of varying extent to native contractors, who made their own arrangements for the supply of liquor; it remained in force until 1863. In that year the farming system was abolished throughout the district, and four distilleries were established at Mirzapur, Korh, Chunar and Robertsganj. These new arrangements, however, were soon found to be unworkable in the south. The remote and hilly nature of the country and the proximity of native states combined with the greater cost of the distillery liquor to encourage wholesale smuggling and illicit distillation: and the excise receipts in the Robertsganj tahsil fell from Rs. 3,421 to Rs. 311 only. The farming system was accordingly speedily resorted to; and soon after similarly situated portions of the district, including Upraudh, parts of Chaurasi and Saktesgarh and the whole of *tāluqa* Naugarh were brought under that system. The Korh distillery was closed in 1878, the wants of the people in Bhadohi being supplied from Mirzapur, and that at Chunar was closed in 1887. In 1895 an attempt to substitute the system of separately licensed outstills for that of farming tracts was not altogether successful: but it was found possible to carry out the change in the following year. In 1903 the experiment of farming out pargana Singrauli was made, but in the next year the outstill system was reintroduced. The only important change that has been made in the general arrangements introduced in 1878 is the extension of the distillery system to portions of the Vindhyan plateau, so that, at the present time,

* Rules on this and other matters made under section 8, sub-section (3) of Act VIII of 1897 are found in G. O. No. 1634/VI—40B, dated June 18th, 1897.

the outstill system is in force only in tahsil Robertsganj, a part of pargana Upraudh, and the *taluqa* of Naugarh in the Family Domains. There is a central distillery at Mirzapur, from which liquor is supplied to the licensed shops. The institution differs in no way from similar distilleries in the other centres of the province as regards the arrangements made for the distillation of liquor and the safeguarding of the revenue, nor does the system of distillation employed by the licensed distillers present any peculiar features, *mahua* and *shira* being the materials generally used.

Revenue. In the outstill tract the right to manufacture and sell country liquor is sold shop by shop by auction each year to the highest bidder; and in the distillery tract the right to sell liquor manufactured at a central distillery is disposed of in a similar way. The liquor pays, before leaving the distillery, a still head duty amounting to Rs. 3-8-0 or Rs. 2-10-0 per gallon, according as the liquor is London proof or 25° under proof, if it destined for consumption within the municipal limits of Mirzapur city, or of Rs. 3 or Rs. 2-4-0 per gallon if for consumption beyond those boundaries. Besides this, licensed distillers pay a small distillery fee of Rs. 3 per mensem for each still, and one of Rs. 2 per mensem for the right to sell liquor wholesale. The total receipts under all these heads show considerable fluctuations from year to year. From 1878 to 1887, they amounted on an average to Rs. 1,50,388, but in the succeeding decade they fell to Rs. 1,27,524, the low sum of Rs. 65,308 only being obtained in the famine year of 1897. There has been a marked improvement during the last ten years and between 1898 and 1907 the total income on all accounts from country liquor has amounted on an average to Rs. 1,63,440 annually. No statistics regarding the amount of liquor consumed in the outstill tract are available, but in the distillery tract the sale appears to have decreased. From 1878 to 1887 as many as 69,026 imperial gallons were consumed. During the following ten years the total was only 53,913 and from 1898 to 1907 it has amounted to 61,528 imperial gallons. The number of shops too has been reduced from time to time; in 1884 there were no less than 418 open, but in 1908 there were only 289, out of which 146 belonged to the outstill and 143 to the distillery tract.

A small income is derived annually from licence fees on account of the sale of the fermented liquors known as *tari* and *sendhi*. The former is the sap of the palmyra palm, while *sendhi* is derived from the wild date palm. Usually the monopoly of the vend over the whole district is sold to a contractor, who has the right to sublet his privilege. The number of shops, where these liquors can be sold, is fixed and at the present time is 32. The receipts average some Rs. 1,500 annually. *Tari Sendh[i]*

The consumption of hemp drugs in the district is also large. These are imported from the warehouses established at certain centres in the province, chiefly in the form of *ganja* and *bhang*, though *charas* also is consumed and is growing in popularity. Since the increase in the duty, the amount of *ganja* consumed has exhibited a decline, but this has been compensated to some extent by larger sales of *charas*. On an average the *ganja* sold in the district during the ten years ending in 1907 amounted to nearly 34 maunds annually, compared with 41·12 maunds for the five years between 1893 and 1897. The corresponding figures for *charas* for the same periods were 15·70 and 30·1 maunds respectively. The amount of *bhang* consumed has increased from an average of 234 maunds in the earlier to one of 248½ maunds per annum in the later period. There are at the present time 128 shops licensed to sell these drugs, which are consumed by Hindus of all grades. The right of vend is usually farmed to a contractor who takes a lease for three years. The average receipts have risen from Rs. 27,389 in the decade ending in 1897 to Rs. 41,853 between 1898 and 1907. Hem[p] drugs.

There are now 33 shops licensed to sell opium in the district, and the consumption of this article appears to have slowly increased. The average sales amounted to nearly 40 maunds between 1878 and 1887, and to 44¼ maunds from 1888 and 1897. During the decade ending in 1907, no less than 46½ maunds have been annually sold. The receipts have risen *pari passu* with the demand, and have averaged Rs. 22,819 for the last period as against Rs. 15,276 in the first. Opium is purchased from the Government treasuries at Rs. 17 per *ser*, and is sold retail at some four or five annas a *tola*. Besides the licensed vendors, the Opium

treasurer and his agents at the various sub-treasuries are permitted to sell opium by retail.

Stamps.

Stamp duties are collected under the Indian Stamp Act (II of 1899) and the Court Fees Act (VII of 1870). A table given in the appendix shows the total receipts from this source for each year since 1890-91, as well as details for judicial and other stamps.* For the first ten years the average aggregate amount thus realised was Rs. 1,55,455 annually, the receipts from court-fee and copy stamps bringing in Rs. 1,02,077 or nearly two-thirds of the whole. During the seven subsequent years the total averaged Rs. 1,68,999, towards which judicial stamps contributed Rs. 1,10,328, the proportion remaining practically the same as before. The total charges for the same period averaged only Rs. 4,931.

Registration.

Registration was formerly carried on through two separate establishments, that for the district at large under the district judge, and that for the Family Domains in which the deputy superintendent was registrar. Since 1895, however, the district judge has been registrar for the entire district. For purposes of registration the district is divided into six subdivisions. Four of these correspond with the revenue subdivisions namely tahsils Mirzapur, Chunar, Korh and Chakia. Tahsil Roberstganj is divided into two subdistricts; one of these comprises pargana Singrauli, with Dudhi, and tappa Kon of pargana Agori, the office being situated at Dudhi, while the other covers the rest of the tahsil. The heaviest work is done at Korh and after that at Mirzapur and Chunar, where the office of sub-registrar is held by departmental officers. In Robertsganj the *tahsildar* is *ex officio* sub-registrar, and in Chakia the post is held by the *tahsildar* of the Maharaja of Benares; while in Dudhi the *sazawal* or manager of the Government estate occupies the office.

During the past five years, 1904 to 1908, the average number of documents registered annually under the Indian Registration Act (Act III of 1877), was 9,006, the value of the property affected being Rs. 37,67,467. The total average receipts during the same period amounted to Rs. 16,812, as against charges averaging Rs. 6,644. Very few documents are registered in the Dudhi subdistrict and the average income there is infinitesimal.

* Appendix, table XII.

Post-[offices] and te[legraph]

The development of the postal system in Mirzapur differs in no way from the general history of that institution in the province of Agra, and it is needless to recapitulate the steps by which what was once a local business became merged into a branch of imperial administration. At the present time the district contains 40 post-offices, including the head office in the civil station at Mirzapur. There are 16 sub-offices, from which the delivery of letters is made direct or the mails are distributed to the dependent branch offices. None of these nor of the 23 branch offices are now under district management, the ten that existed in 1881 at Chopan, Chhota Mirzapur, Drummondganj, Ghorawal, Halia, Korh, Lalganj, Mariahan, Pannuganj and Rajgarh having been gradually absorbed and transferred to the control of the imperial authorities. The work of the post-office in Mirzapur is not now, as districts go, particularly heavy, though there has been an enormous development during the last thirty years. In 1880-81 the total number of letters dealt with in the district was 513,812, that of newspapers, books, parcels and similar miscellaneous articles being but 33,462. For the last year on record, 1908-09, these figures had increased to 1,698,918 and 158,054 respectively; while the amount paid out in money-orders was Rs. 11,81,487, as against Rs. 8,20,170 worth of orders issued. There are facilities for the despatch of telegrams from all railway stations; but besides these, there are combined post and telegraph offices at Mirzapur head office, Mirzapur city, Chunar and Ahraura; while during the time artillery practice is being held at Barkachha, a temporary wire is kept open in the camp.

Incom[e-] tax.

Income-tax was originally levied at a rate of six pies in the rupee on profits exceeding Rs. 500 under an Act of 1870 and produced in Mirzapur a sum of Rs. 1,21,292 in 1872, when it was abolished. Its place was subsequently taken to some extent by the licence-tax levied under Act II of 1878 which yielded some Rs. 27,000 annually. A regular income-tax was reintroduced under Act II of 1886, and the sums realised from this source in each year since 1890-91 will be found in tabular form in the appendix.* The total showed a marked decline in 1903-04, resulting from the introduction of the new law exempting from assessment incomes under one thousand rupees. The receipts for

* Appendix, table XIII.

the preceding ten years had averaged Rs. 56,227, but for the five years ending in 1908 the figures dropped to Rs. 49,712. The great bulk of the payments are made under part IV of the Act, the principal assessees being manufacturers, merchants, pleaders and shopkeepers. Another table shows the details for the different tahsils,* as well as for the city of Mirzapur. The city contributes most of the tax, and of the tahsils Mirzapur, Chunar and Korh.

Municipalities.

The only municipality now in the district is that of Mirzapur which was so constituted on the 25th of June 1867. Its affairs are managed by a board of sixteen members, of whom twelve are elected and the remainder nominated by the Government. Income is derived mainly from octroi import dues, supplemented by the rents of lands and houses and other miscellaneous items. Details showing the income and expenditure under the main heads for each year since 1890 will be found in the appendix.† From this it will be seen that both have increased greatly since the year 1905, mainly on account of the large sums borrowed in order to be spent on works of improvement in the city: of these some account will be given in the article on Mirzapur. The town of Chunar was constituted a municipality in 1867 at the same time as that of Mirzapur, and remained such until April 1st, 1904, when it was converted into a notified area under United Provinces Act I of 1900. So long as it remained a municipality income was raised by an octroi-tax on imports; this was supplemented by miscellaneous receipts from rents, pounds and so forth, and by a tax on weighmen first imposed in 1891. When it became a notified area, octroi was abolished and a direct tax on trades and professions according to circumstances and property was substituted. One year later or on April 1st, 1905, the old settlement of Chunar, which had been administered since 1864 under Act XX of 1856, was also converted into a notified area; no direct tax has been imposed but the income is derived for the most part from the rents of lands and houses. In both cases local affairs are administered by a committee of five persons; the district magistrate is president, while the subdivisional officer, the *tahsildar* of Chunar, and two residents of the areas, nominated

* Appendix, table XIV.

† Appendix, table XVI.

by the Government, are members. The town of Ahraura was constituted an Act XX town in 1865. But since 1908 it has been a notified area and its affairs are now managed by a board consisting of five nominated members—the president of which is a local resident.

Act XX towns.

There are now three places in the district which are administered under the provisions of Act XX of 1856. These are, Gopiganj, Ghorawal and Kachhwa which date from 1872. For many years the town of Kon in pargana Agori was similarly administered, but the provisions of the Act were withdrawn from it in 1901. Income is raised in these by a house-tax in the usual way, and expended in maintaining a force of extra police for the watch and ward of the town, a small conservancy staff, and in works of simple improvement. Details of the receipts and expenditure will be given in the separate articles on these places.

District board.

The administration of local affairs outside the municipalities, notified areas and Act XX towns is largely in the hands of the district board, a body which has been in existence since the introduction of Act XIV of 1883, when it took the place of the old district committee and was entrusted with more extended functions. The board consists of 15 members, of whom twelve are elected, five from Mirzapur, four from Chunar, and three from Robertsganj tahsil: the remaining three are appointed by the Government. The duties of the board are of the usual description, comprising the management of local institutions such as roads, schools, dispensaries, ferries, cattle pounds and the like. A table given in the appendix shows details of the income and expenditure of the board under the more important heads for each year since 1890-91.* The position of the district is one of deficit to some extent, and the local sources of income have to be supplemented by contributions from provincial funds. The largest amounts are expended on civil works, education and medical arrangements, which more than absorb the balance left from local rates after deducting the charges for police and general establishment. Besides the sums derived from rates, considerable amounts are obtained from ferries, educational fees and other sources but as a rule these do not suffice to make up the deficiency, which under the new

* Appendix, table XV.

system introduced in 1907 is met from a fixed grant to the district.

The jurisdiction of the district board of Mirzapur does not extend to the Family Domains.* Here all the rates realised by the Maharaja of Benares under the Benares Family Domains Act (U. P. Act III of 1904) are credited by him to a separate fund called the Family Domains Local Fund. To these are added a contribution of Rs. 25,313 from the Government and one of Rs. 16,142 from the Maharaja himself, together with miscellaneous receipts. The administration of the fund is entrusted to the Maharaja of Benares, subject to the control of the superintendent of the Family Domains; and if the fund is not sufficient for the purpose of defraying the expenditure on all the objects laid down by the special rules, the excess expenditure is met by the Local Government in the same way as it meets a deficit in the expenditure of a district board. These objects are the construction, repair and maintenance of public roads, bridges and other means of communication; the maintenance of roadside avenues, the equipment and management of schools, markets, hospital and similar institutions; the construction and repair of public wells, tanks and water works; the regulation of encamping grounds, *sarais* and *paraos*, other than those which are private property; any other local works or measures likely to promote the convenience and interest of the public; and the maintenance of the village and road police. The management of the schools within the Family Domains is vested in a special committee appointed for the purpose; and in all matters, the expenditure on which is provided from the Family Domains Local Rates Fund, the functions performed by the district board in the rest of the district is performed by the Raja subject to the control of the superintendent.†

Education.

The first efforts made in the direction of supplying the people of the district with higher education were due to missionary enterprise, when in 1820 the Church Missionary Society opened a

* Under the Cattle Trespass Act (I of 1871), however, the district board has authority to allocate and make rules for the administration of cattle-pounds in the Domains, though the surplus accruing from them is credited to the Family Domains Local Rates Fund.

† Notification No. 601/I—597B. of 1907 (Revenue).

secondary school at Chunar. This was followed by the foundation, in 1823, of a number of indigenous primary schools in the same locality; but it was not until some years later that a similar movement was initiated in Mirzapur itself. Here primary indigenous schools were first started in 1829 and were the only institutions of the kind until the foundation of private schools by the London Missionary Society in 1839. Secondary education appears to have been neglected until 1844, when the same society opened the "Free School" which at the present day, under the name of the London Mission High School, has become the most popular and important institution of its kind in the district. The history of State education begins with the attempt made in 1843-44 to utilise the indigenous primary schools as auxiliaries to the colleges then established at certain centres in the province. The following year a circular issued by the Government directed the preparation of a return showing the number of these institutions in certain districts and the taking of steps to improve and extend them. The return received from Mirzapur in 1845 shows that there were then 97 schools in the district, 59 of which were located in the towns of Mirzapur and Chunar, seven being under the management of the London Missionary Society and seventeen being located in the Family Domains. The total number of scholars on the rolls was 1,470 and there were 34 schools in which Persian was taught and 32 in which the language was Hindi, the remainder being Sanskrit schools. No further action was taken on the report in Mirzapur until the year 1856, when the State undertook some of the responsibilities of education by the establishment of two secondary vernacular schools at Ahraura and Gopiganj and of 38 village, or *halqabundi* schools as they were called, at different places in the district. Meanwhile, however, other educational agencies had not been idle; for the London Missionary Society started a girls' secondary school, which received a grant-in-aid from the Government, in 1852 at Mirzapur, and a boys' school at Gyanpur or Korh in 1853; while in 1854 the Maharaja of Benares opened secondary schools both at Korh and at Bhadohi. The movement thus started was checked for a brief period during the Mutiny; but as soon as order had been restored, progress once more set in. This progress has continued ever since. In 1860 the

number of *halqabandi* schools had risen to 51, and a third vernacular secondary school was opened at Korh. Three years later a private secondary school, called the Gosain Tola city school, which received a grant-in-aid from the Government, was started in Mirzapur; the missionaries opened a subscription school in the city and three primary schools in the Sonpar tract; and 13 more village schools were added to the list; while the first public attempt was made at female education by the establishment of seven girls' schools. In 1866 there were three secondary vernacular, over one hundred village primary and ten girls' primary schools, supported directly by the Government, in the district; while two secondary schools located at Gyanpur and Bhadohi in the Family Domains were receiving grants-in-aid, and there were nine girls' schools under the management of the missionaries. The same year saw the establishment of six anglo-vernacular schools under private management at Adalpura, Sikandarpur, Sikhar, Baretha, Bijaipur and Kachhwa. The period may be said to close with the conversion of the subscription school into a superior *zila* school on the 1st April 1869 and of that of the Gyanpur and Bhadohi schools into anglo-vernacular institutions in 1871. At the same time there were three secondary vernacular and 98 primary village schools, the other institutions imparting instruction being the London Mission and Church Mission schools at Mirzapur and Chunar; the aided anglo-vernacular schools at Adalpura, Sikandarpur, Sikhar, Bijaipur and Kachhwa; five girls' schools supported by the Government four London Mission zenana schools which were aided; and 117 indigenous schools, 17 of which were female schools. Ten years later considerable changes had taken place as the educational needs of the people came to be better understood, and there were then twelve high and middle schools teaching English or the vernaculars in the district, the total number of scholars on the rolls being 214. The primary schools numbered 124, being attended by 4,335 boys, while there were 8 primary schools for girls which were attended by 175 pupils.

Schools. A list of all the schools in the district in 1908 will be found in the appendix, together with a table showing the number of institutions and of scholars attending them since the year 1896.*

* Appendix, table XVIII.

From this it will be seen that there are at the present time five schools which teach English, these being the old established London Mission High School at Mirzapur and the Church Mission school at Chunar, the district school and the Jubilee school, established in 1888, both at Mirzapur, and the Gyanpur or Korh school. There are seven schools which teach up to the vernacular middle standard at Mirzapur, Chunar, Ahraura, Kachhwa, Robertsganj, Gopiganj and Bhadohi, and 103 primary schools, supported by the Government. In addition to these, there are 85 primary schools which receive grants-in-aid from the district board or from municipal funds, 21 which are maintained by Court of Wards' estates, and 16 others which belong to the Government Dudhi estate, the total number of primary institutions of all kinds being 225. Generally speaking, education and this is especially the case in the south of the district is backward. The agricultural masses are for the most part indifferent to the uses and benefits of the elements of knowledge, so that the school population is chiefly recruited from the priestly, land-owning, trading and writer castes. Still, some solid progress has been achieved since the institution of village schools in 1856, the average increase in attendance being at the rate of about 100 boys a year.

Literacy. The progress effected in the matter of education is to some extent illustrated by the returns of successive enumerations. In 1881 the proportion of the male population able to read and write was 5·4 per cent. : this was above both the provincial average of 4·5 per cent. and that of all the other districts in the Benares and Gorakhpur divisions except Benares itself, where, owing to the presence of a large city, the proportion of literates has always been high. At the following census of 1891 the proportion had risen to 5·8 per cent. the improvement however being less marked than in many of the neighbouring districts. At the last census in 1901 the literate male population amounted to 7·0 per cent. of the whole, this figure being considerably in advance of the provincial average of 5·8 per cent. and better than that any of the adjoining districts save Benares. Of the total population 3·58 per cent. were able to read and write, and from this it appears that the number of literate females is quite insignificant. It amounted to ·28 per cent. though this again was above both the provincial average and that

of the other districts of the division except Benares. In respect of female literacy also there has been marked improvement, for according to the returns of 1881 only ·16 of the females were able to read and write, and in 1891 the percentage had only risen to ·20. Generally speaking, the proportion of literates is larger in the case of Hindus than of Musalmans, the respective figures being 6·98 and 6·44 per cent. of the males in each case. Female education on the other hand is relatively more common among the Musulmans, for ·34 per cent. of them were able to write as against ·21 per cent. of the Hindus. The use of the Nagri character is far more prevalent than that of the Persian, no less than 86 per cent. of the literate population being according to the returns of 1901 acquainted with Hindi only. A little over 5 per cent. knew the Persian script, and the remainder were acquainted in some degree with both.

Dispensaries.

The medical institutions of Mirzapur comprise at the present time nine hospitals and dispensaries. The Mirzapur district hospital and the small Dufferin hospital for women were erected in commemoration of the Jubilee of Queen Victoria and are comparatively recent buildings. The former consists of an administrative block and three outlying buildings for the accommodation of in-patients: an operating room was erected in 1902; and later a *rais'* ward was built in commemoration of the Coronation of His Majesty King Edward VII out of funds subscribed by native gentlemen of Mirzapur. The total accommodation in the district hospital is for 40, and that of the Dufferin hospital for 12, in-patients. There are branch dispensaries at Narghat near the city, Korh, Robertsganj, Chunar and Dudhi. The most important of these, at any rate as regards the number of patients treated, is the dispensary at Korh, which was opened for the first time in 1865. That at Dudhi is on a much smaller scale, but its importance is rather to be gauged by the fact that it affords practically the only medical aid available to the scattered population of Sonpar. Besides these, the district board maintains dispensaries at Bindhachal and Ahraura, the first having been started in 1893 and the second in 1896. Only out-patients are treated at the branch and district board *dispensaries*. A new dispensary will shortly be opened at Chakia.

Cattle-pounds were instituted soon after the Mutiny. Their administration was at first in the hands of the district magistrate, but after the constitution of district boards, about 1891, it was made over to that body. These pounds bring in a considerable sum annually, the average annual net receipts under this head being Rs. 5,604 for the seven years ending in 1907. This excludes the sum realised from the pounds at Mirzapur and Chunar, the income from which is credited to municipal or notified area funds. The district board pounds are located at each of the various police stations, except Dudhi, Ahraura, Mariahan, Bindhachal, Suriawan, Mirzapur Khurd and Aurai; while they exist also at Drummondganj, Gaipura, Chil, Ujh, Imlia, Sikhar and Shahganj. Those in the Family Domains, which are situated at Bhadohi, Gopiganj, Ujh and Chakia, are under the direct administration of the district magistrate at Mirzapur, though the surplus receipts are credited to the Family Domains Local Rates Fund. Cattle-pounds.

The area of *nazul* land in this district is considerable, and is administered either directly by the collector, or by the district board, the municipal board of Mirzapur and the notified area committees of Chunar. Far the largest individual plot comprises the lands of the old cantonment of Sultanpur, on the north bank of the Ganges in pargana Qariat Sikhar, not far from Chunar. Here were quartered at the time of the Mutiny the 13th Irregular Cavalry; but the cantonments were subsequently abandoned. They are 1,234 acres in extent, including a plot of 100 acres held in perpetual *muafi* by the descendants of Subadar-Major Gobardhan Tewari who receive it for meritorious service. The remainder is managed as a Government estate and brings in an average annual income of Rs. 5,900. Next in size comes the old cantonment of Chunar, 550 acres in extent, the income from which is devoted to the local administration of the Chunar settlement notified area, of which some account will be found in the special article on Chunar. There are 134 acres of encamping-grounds, the proceeds from which average Rs. 422 annually; and besides these there is a considerable area occupied by old ruined forts, the culturable land of which is now generally leased out and brings in a small income. The largest of these forts are Bijaigarh, 152 acres, and Latifpur, 23 acres, the income being Rs. 25 in the case of the former and Rs. 94 in that of the *Nazul.*

latter. The most lucrative of the miscellaneous plots are the lands leased out by the stone mahal department for outposts and stone dressing dépôts. The most important of them are those at Mirzapur, Jhingura and Dogmagpur, the average income being Rs. 695. The *nazul* property administrated by the municipal board of Mirzapur is only a little over three acres in extent; it consists of miscellaneous houses and plots which are annually rented for about Rs. 150; while at Chunar there are nearly 28 acres of gardens and waste lands and a public *gola* or market place, from which an average income of nearly Rs. 580 is derived, the control being in both cases vested in the notified area committee.

CHAPTER V.

HISTORY.

Prehistoric remains: cave dwellings.

While written records of the history of Mirzapur are unusually scanty, even far into what may be considered historical times, the district contains more remnants of an aboriginal population than any other in the United Provinces. In the fastnesses of the Vindhyas and Kaimurs and in the valley of the Son abound those caves which formed the earliest dwellings of the primeval inhabitants, and which, though in many cases not yet systematically or thoroughly explored, have yielded relics of the remotest antiquity.* The caves are merely such shallow hollows as have been naturally formed in the rock. Those chosen for habitation appear generally to have commended themselves to their occupants from their difficulty of access and the ease with which they might be defended from the attacks of man and beast. A few of the caves which contain soil also contain stone implements, mostly of a few simple shapes. The coarser and clumsier of these implements are made of a hard quartzitic sandstone occuring in the vicinity; but there are many of a finer sort flaked off with infinite pains from pebbles of quartz, jasper, chertz, agate and cornelian, brought apparently from the bed of the river Son. These are evidently contrived, some as weapons of the chase, some to assist in stripping and dressing skins and some for the commoner domestic uses. Bone implements and fragments of fossil bone belonging to very large mammalia are common in the caves, and it may be concluded that one of the chief uses of the stone knives was to scrape bone spear and arrow heads and also the shafts of arrows and spears to make them round and straight. Some of the shapes of these implements are very curious and some are saw-backed flakes and borers. The flakes were evidently set in bone and wood and would thus make effective

* The substance of these paragraphs on the caves and rock-drawings of Mirzapur is based on a paper kindly contributed by Messrs. W. B. and T. Cockburn, who also supplied some interesting photographs, which it has been found impossible to reproduce in the gazetteer. For additional information reference may be made to the *Imperial Gazetteer of India*, vol. II, pp. 89 to 98, *J. A. S. B.*, 1879, part I; 1883, part I, 221; 1894, part III, 21; and *J. R. A. S.*, 1899, p. 89.

saws, rasps and borers; while some of the last-named implements are very fine, tapering from a tenth of an inch to a point as sharp as that of a needle. So far search has not revealed a single representation of an axe, though it is well known that it was by the stone axe that prehistoric man wrought the destruction of the primeval forest. These stone implements belong to the class known as "pygmy flints," and are believed to be of neolithic age. The available evidence goes to show that their manufacture extended over a long period, and there is reason to believe that the earlier examples go back to the beginnings of the neolithic age. It is possible that they are the memorials of the survivors of palæolithic man, working as the slaves or dependants of the more advanced neolithic races.

Tombs.

The stone implements from the south of Mirzapur are associated with neolithic interments. In prehistoric, as in modern, India various methods for the disposal of the dead were adopted. The men of palæolithic times probably abandoned their dead in the forests; in the neolithic age burial was perhaps the rule, and it seems certain that the practice of burial is older than that of cremation. Examples of sepulchres which can be referred with confidence to the neolithic period are rare, but besides those in the south of the district, a certainly neolithic cemetery near the town of Mirzapur was explored by Colonel Rivett Carnac and Mr. Cockburn. The grave fully excavated was six or eight feet deep, enclosed in a stone circle about twelve feet in diameter, and contained the skeleton of an adult male over six feet in length, lying on a stone slab pointing north and south. A flat dish of "glazed" pottery was placed at the head of the skeleton, and a similar vessel lay at each corner of the tomb, which also contained a long narrow lachrymal vase of green glass about seven inches long. In a second grave opened two stone hammers and sundry flint flakes were found.

Rock dwellings.

Coeval, in part at least, with the "pygmy flints" are rock-drawings, which are found in many places in the Kaimur hills, under boulders, in rock shelters, on vertical precipices, and on the roofs of caves. They are executed in red, yellow and white pigment, the red predominating and only traces of the yellow and red being visible. Mr. Cockburn was the first to point out that as the red pigment was an oxide of iron and all sandstone contained iron many of the drawings were in the nature of a stain on the rock,

and that, as the sandstone on which the most perfect drawings had been done is a a vitreous quartzite harder than granite, weathering very slowly, the drawings in protected situations were of great antiquity.* These drawings generally depict hunting scenes. Some of the more interesting ones deserve description. In one cave Mr. Cockburn discovered a collection of characters and symbols which are in the earliest Asoka characters and may belong even to an older era and be one of the sources of the Asoka characters. Some of the symbols associated with them represent the nine planets, whose influence is considered to play a very important part in the life of a Hindu, and must have been drawn by a civilized people. Another drawing represents a tiger drive and is better execnted than the others. It was found at China Durra and is evidently a mediæval picture, for barbed iron arrows of a form impossible in wood or stone, swords, shields and spears are conspicuous. On the other hand, no firearms are visible. This picture is probably about 500 years old. In one rock shelter was discovered the drawing of a plan of an ancient city and the exodus of its inhabitants. The latter from their dress appear to be men of northern race. They are represented with hair flowing down to their shoulders and curling up, with long robes, and with turned-up shoes like sabots, quite unlike drawings of aborigines. The plan of the city is interesting. It is entirely surrounded by a wall while outside is a temple or *stupa.* Possibly the city intended to be represented is Benares and the *stupa* may be Sarnath. The roads are evidently drawn on a plan by one who knew them. Various other plans on much more simple lines of what appear to be large villages have been found, similar to the plans engraved on stone discovered in Switzerland and Germany. Among other drawings there is a picture of two war chariots apparently opposed by aborigines. One of the chariots has a protective mantlet in front and a pole with a standard or crest on top : it has only two wheels behind and is drawn by four mules. A savage with a mace and shield opposes it. The second chariot is a four-wheeled one and the charioteer flourishes what looks like a spare wheel ; the animals drawing it are evidently, from their tails, horses. Most interesting of all are the drawings of animals whether in

* *Proceedings of the Asiatic Society of Bengal*, 1884, p. 141.

hunting scenes or otherwise; the latter include the rhinoceros, the *gaur*, swamp deer and wild buffalo. One drawing depicts a rhinoceros hunt by men using a multi-barbed spear, which argues a high antiquity. It is impossible to turn from these antique pictures, the earliest expression of the thoughts of man, without considering the dim vistas of history they open up. They ėstablish the fact that the rhinoceros was once found in and around these hills and suggest that extensive swamps once existed here, side by side with primeval forest; that the climate was then different and rainfall heavier; and that the forests have been gradually cleared by the patient labour of man, who has, in his efforts to grow food-producing grasses only, levelled the soil and at the same time destroyed the inequalities of surface loved by arboreal vegetation, causing a change in climate, the drying up of springs, and the many changes in the habits of man that these have brought about. It is possible that some of the rock drawings of the Kaimurs are 3,000 years old or even more; but some, as has been seen, are more recent. The caves were inhabited first by savages and then by Buddhist and Hindu ascetics; and holy men from Benares even yet occasionally take up their quarters in them. But most of the drawings are probably the work of aborigines; and represent scenes in their lives dating from the remotest antiquity to the time when they were driven by the strong immigrants from the north to the fastnesses of the hills, where the latter did not care to follow them. Many of the drawings are palimpsests, while others are covered with a deposit of carbonate of lime, the satisfactory removal of which may yet display older pictures.

The Bhars.

Tradition, however, is wholly silent as to these ancient dwellers in caves. The Bhar is everywhere the *autochthon* of popular story. Every ancient tank, every half-obliterated entrenchment, and every fort of rude and massive masonry is, by common consent, attributed to a "Bhar Raja." The Bhar empire probably extended northwards as far as Bhadohi and southwards to Barhar, both of which parganas derive their names from the ruling race. In the former their forts and tanks abound. The tanks are specially numerous and it is hardly possible to travel three miles in any direction without meeting examples of these which are always to be distinguished from later work by the fact that they are *suraj bedi*, that is, having

their longer diameter from east to west, while Hindu work is invariably *chandra bedi* or with the longer diameter north and south. On the south side of the Ganges also the Bhars have left widespread traces of their ancient supremacy. Their chief city appears to have been on the Ganges bank, some five miles to the west of the present city of Mirzapur, extending from the Ujhla river to beyond the Ashtbhuja temples and including in its limits the sacred shrine of Vindhyeshwari Devi at Bindhachal. The city, of which the traditional name is Pampapura, was evidently of great extent. It is said to have possessed one hundred and fifty temples, the final destruction of which is attributed to Aurangzeb. This may be an exaggeration, but the remains indicate that there were numerous buildings of considerable architectural magnificence. Below the bungalow at Ashtbhuja is a massive square building having the appearance of a fort. It is, however, a Hindu monastery, with a temple on its summit, reputed to be of some sanctity. This edifice has in its walls, breastworks and foundations, a multitude of carved stones and figures, while many more cover the ground in its vicinity. The sculptures found here and elsewhere in many places among the outlying fields are not of modern Hindu style. Some of the figures are of the aboriginal type and are readily distinguishable by their peculiar head dress and long pointed beards; while others are representations of Hindu men and women with elaborate turbans and head dress. The former perhaps represent Bhar Rajas, though from the mingling of Hindu figures among them and the occurrence of deities of distinctive Hindu types, the relics appear to point to a later period of Bhar history when Hindus had settled among them and, it may be, to some extent subdued them. Still, the attitude of the Bhar figures shows them to have been still a people of dignity and importance, and in some cases they are distinctly depicted as the superior race.* How or when the Bhars obtained the country is unknown. It would seem, however, that prior to the great Aryan invasion of the Ganges valley they and the other kindred tribes of the same aboriginal stock were in possession of the greater part of the districts now forming the province of Oudh and the division of Benares. How

* Sherring, *Hindu Tribes and Castes*, vol. I, pp. 359 foll.

far the Bhars were here, as in Benares and Ghazipur, driven back before the Aryan invader there is nothing to show; but this much is certain that about the time of the great battle between the religions, the Bhars were in firm possession of their ancient seats. And so it comes to pass that at the dawn of authentic local history, the whole of the Gangetic portion of the district was in the hands of Bhar rulers and peopled by a Bhar population, a people evidently inured to war and skilled in the arts of peace, with, as the existing remains show, no contemptible degree of civilization and a larger share of artistic talent than is to be found among their successors at the present day.

Other aboriginal tribes.

Cheros.

But the Bhars were not the only aboriginal tribe which found a home in Mirzapur. In the east and south were found Cheros, Seoris, Kols and Kharwars. The Cheros are probably akin to the Bhars and once possessed the district from Chunar eastwards into Shahabad. Originally they seem to have been a wandering tribe which immigrated from the highlands of Central India. At the present day they, like the Bhars, have fallen from a post of legendary greatness to the ban of a despised and outcaste race; but in the time of Sher Shah their power was still formidable, and from 1612 to 1800 A.D. they held Palamau till they were expelled by the British. Their rule in Shahabad, however, did not extend beyond the reign of Akbar, and in Mirzapur they were overcome by the Seoris.

Seoris.

The latter appear to have been, next to the Bhars, the most powerfu of the aboriginal tribes. Their traditions tell of wide dominion in Shahabad and Ghazipur and they claim to have held land also in Benares. That their home was originally in the Ganges valley is inferred from the fact they still bring the bones of their dead from long distances to the Ganges. The memory of a great conflict between them and the Cheros and their final victory and occupation of the lands of the vanquished still lives. Some square obelisks with curious carving on all four faces were discovered near Bhuili and have been attributed to them; and in historical times this much is certain, that a large portion of the country round about Chunar was held by them, until the governor of that fortress expelled them at the close of the twelfth century. The present number of Seoris in Mirzapur is very small; they are more numerous in Benares and

Ballia. The Kols were another widely spread people; and though they are now but hewers of wood and drawers of water, they once had their own provinces and their own government. The wild country now known as Saktesgarh, a tappa of the ancient pargana of Kantit, was once a Kol demesne and was frequently called, after them, Kolana. Owing to the natural difficulty of the country and the absence of booty to tempt an invader, the Kols held their mountain home long after the Hindu conquest of the plains below. A small, and perhaps a nominal, tax was imposed on them by Akbar; but it does not seem to have been realized, for its non-payment was the pretext under which, apparently with the imperial sanction, Sakat Singh, one of the Rajas of Kantit, annexed the Kol country to his own estate, and erected, to secure his new possession, the fortress which has since been known by his name. The Kharwars still inhabit the parganas of Barhar, Agori, Bijaigarh and Singrauli. The home of their race, according to their traditions, was Khairagarh, possibly the Allahabad pargana of that name. The Baland Rajas of this tribe, who flourished in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries, held possession of a considerable portion of the south of the district, from which they were expelled by Chandels of Mahoba. Their capital was Agori on the Son; but the principal remains are in Kandia, a tract of country some six miles south-west of Ghorawal. There, local tradition says, once stood a second Kashi, five *kos* in extent; and certainly the remains of buildings and the numerous fragments of archaic sculpture are such as could only have belonged to a well-built, rich and prosperous city; while the great irrigation tanks at Pur, Koradih and Karsota remain to attest the attention which was paid to the cultivation of a somewhat inhospitable soil.

Kols.

Kharwars.

There is nothing save a few scattered fragments of sculpture, and these of a doubtful and inconclusive character, to show how far this district was included in the limits of the Buddhist empire of Asoka and his successors. It is idle, too, to speculate to what extent the Guptas exercised jurisdiction over it. Nor can we tell whether Mirzapur, like its neighbours, came under the influence of the great extension of Aryan civilisation, which was synchronous with the triumph of Buddhism and fell with its fall, though the fact that such was the case is in some degree supported by the

The dawn of authentic history.

recent find of a Buddhist image in the city of Mirzapur. The routes of the Chinese pilgrims nowhere intersect Mirzapur. It may be presumed, however, that the district was near enough to that centre of ancient power in India, Pataliputra, to be included successively in the empire of the chieftains, be they Mauryas, Guptas* or Palas, who ruled there; that the portion in the Gangetic valley alone was sufficiently populous and civilized to be of much importance; and that the wild tribes beyond the Vindhyas and Kaimurs, secure in their jungle fortresses, remained undisturbed and enjoyed a large degree of autonomy. When authentic history begins with the Rajput immigration the state of affairs may be very briefly summed up. The Bhars held the Ganges plain, and possibly some portion of the hills beyond; the Seoris peopled what is now the southern portion of the Chunar tahsil; the Kols eked out a subsistence among the jungles and swamps of Saktesgarh; while the Kharwars were the lords of a compact and powerful kingdom in the south.

The Rajput immigration.

A new chapter in the history of Mirzapur opens in the twelfth century. About 1090 A.D. an adventurer of the Gaharwar clan seized the city of Kanauj and founded a new dynasty. Whether the district fell before within the dominions of Gangeya Deva and Karna Deva, the powerful princes of Chedi or Dahala, whose coins and land grants engraved on copper plates have been found in the district of Benares, and even in distant Tirhut, cannot be determined; but there is a strong tradition, which is supported by the annals of the Kantit house, that the Gaharwar chieftain of Kanauj held Benares at this period. Indeed, from one account it would appear as if the original home of the Gaharwars, or at any rate the place in which they first rose to greatness, was Benares; for it is said that the head of the clan, which claims lunar descent, first came into possession of the kingdom of Benares, and that one of its chiefs, Deva Dasa, there became an ascetic. He was tempted unsuccessfully by Sani or Saturn and gained the title of *graha-rara*, the subduer of the planet, whence he obtained the name *Gaharwar*. His virtue,

* Gupta inscriptions have been found near Chunar, mentioning Chandragupta and Samudragupta, *vide* Cunningham, *A. R., vol.* XI, p. 127; vol. XXI, p. 128.

however, was finally overcome by "Dhande Raja Ganesa," and he was compelled to retire from the holy ground of Kashi to Kanauj. At any rate the Gaharwar settlement in pargana Kera Mangraur is a very old one; and that their territories at one time extended over other portions of the district may be inferred from the existence of Gaharwargaon in the extreme south. The Kanauj dynasty was unquestionably a powerful one and its rule embraced a large tract of country to the north of the Ganges, the best known of the princes of the line being Govinda Chandra, whose land grants are numerous in several districts of the Benares division. But its paramountcy certainly did not involve the ousting of other tribes, for the Bhars were in possession of Kantit and Bisen and Brahman immigrants in Bhadohi obtained grants from Bhar Rajas, which must be ascribed to this period. The Gaharwar kingdom of Kanauj lasted until 1193 A.D., when their city was captured and destroyed by Muhammad *bin* Sam, Shahab-ud-din Ghori, who advanced and took Benares in the following year; but it does not appear to have come to an end even then. In 1195-96 A.D. a Raja of Kanauj had sufficient authority to make a grant of a village* in Mirzapur, more than one hundred miles distant from Kanauj; and it is not unlikely that this Raja, while retaining a titular connection with Kanauj, resided at some town out of the reach of the Muhammadan generals or officials. This town may have been Zafarabad, four miles to the south-east of Jaunpur, a reputed site of a palace of the later Rajas of Kanauj.† All that can be concluded from the existing evidence is that, after the destruction of Kanauj and Benares, the Gaharwar kingdom of Kanauj was broken up. The defeated chieftain was Raja Jai Chand, who was killed. His successor, whoever he may have been, established himself on the north of the Ganges; while a nephew is said to have become king of Rohtasgarh. The bulk of the clan migrated westwards to found a new kingdom in the inhospitable deserts of Rajputana, while the eastern Gaharwars appear to have remained in their homes in Kera Mangraur, where the Kols still worship Raja Lakhan, usually identified with Lakhana Deva, the son of Raja Jai Chand. One tradition indeed states

* Belkhara, 12 miles south-east of Chunar, *vide* Cunningham, *A. R.*, vol. XI, p. 128.

† Cunningham, *A. R.*, vol. XI, p. 104; *J. R. A. S.*, 1908, p. 792.

that some prince of the royal house, whose residence was in Karra Manikpur, moved eastwards and occupied Kantit on the Ganges,* subsequently over-running the whole of the northern portion of the district. But the commonly accepted version of the story is that Kantit was not occupied until three centuries later; and the history of the Kantit Raj will be subsequently treated.

The Chandels.

Meanwhile important changes were taking place in the south of the district. It has been already seen that in the earliest days to which the dim light of tradition penetrates the whole country south of the Son and perhaps also a considerable extent north of that river, stretching up to the Kaimur scarp, was held by Rajas of the Baland race, as the ruling family of the Kharwar tribe was styled. In the 12th century this kingdom appears to have reached the summit of its prosperity. In the last decade of that or at the beginning of the next century, it fell out that a party of Chandels, fugitives from Mahoba or Kalinjar, the former of which had been captured by Prithvi Raj Chauhan in 1182 A.D., and the latter in 1202 A.D., by Qutb-ud-din Aibak, under the leadership of two brothers whose names tradition has handed down as Bari Mal and Pari Mal, reached the court of the Baland king, Raja Madan, were taken into his service, and retained as the immediate guardian of his castle and person. They rapidly proved themselves valuable, and from their position of trust and importance were able to develop ambitious schemes which only needed a suitable opportunity to be put in practice. That opportunity the mortal sickness of Raja Madan afforded. The dying king, according to the custom of his race, was carried to the northern shore of the Son, to die on what was esteemed to be holier ground. He summoned his heir to receive his parting blessing and his last commands. The message was entrusted to a Chandel and was never delivered. The Rajput mercenaries arranged that one of their number should personate the heir. The failing faculties of the dying king assisted the imposition, and the Chandels obtained information which enabled them to seize upon the royal treasure and establish themselves in the strongholds before news of his father's death could reach the absent heir. It

* *Partabgarh Gazetteer*, pp. 146-147.

was then too late to oust the usurper, and the prince fled into the southern hills, leaving the Chandels masters of his father's kingdom. For nearly a century the usurpers were undisturbed. But all the while the exiled Balands were biding their time, and about the year 1290 A.D. were able to collect a force which, under the leadership of Ghatama, a descendant of Raja Madan, susprised the fort and palace of Agori and recovered the lost domain. This time the conquerors sought to make their future sure by destroying every male of the Chandel race and they believed that they had done so. But it fell out—the story reads like a romance, and may possibly be little else—that one of the queens of the fallen Chandel Raja was pregnant at the time and escaped, in the confusion, with her nurse and a few faithful attendants into the forest. There she was delivered of a son, and cradled him on the shield (*oran*) of one of her followers. Hence the child was called Oran Deo. His after fate was worthy of the romance of his birth. His mother died and the faithful nurse fled with the child to Bilwan, a village on the stream of that name, half-way between Mirzapur and Chunar, where she found refuge in the house of a Seori. The young prince grew up a prodigy of strength and valour. His merits attracted the notice of the Raja of Kantit, who, touched by the story of his misfortunes, not only supplied him with a sufficiency of the sinews of war to enable him to regain his lost dominions but gave him one of his daughters in marriage. The date of Oran Deo's restoration may be put at about 1310 A.D. The exiled Balands returned to Marwar, where they still hold a tract of country under the Maharajas of Rewah; and the Chandels remained in uninterrupted possession of the tract till their expulsion by Balwant Singh in 1745.

Extinction of the Bhars.

It cannot be determined who the Raja of Kantit was that helped to restore Oran Deo. He may have been a Bhar or he may have been a Gaharwar; but the family traditions of the Kantit house are so conflicting that no conclusion can be drawn from them. This much is certain, that a large tract of country covering the present Mirzapur and Korh tahsils was in the hands of the Bhars; but it cannot be proved when or how they ceased to govern. The Monas Rajputs of Bhadohi have a pedigree which would place their advent

in the pargana about the time of the Musalman conquest; and there is a tradition that a party of this clan, passing from their home in Jaipur to Benares, coveted the pargana and formed the design of seizing it. This they eventually did, but not without a prolonged struggle which ended in the almost total extermination of the Bhars. It has already been seen that a Partabgarh tradition ascribes the Gaharwar advent to Kantit also to the time of the Musalman conquest. But the earliest name in the pedigree of the Rajas of Kantit is that of Gudan Deo, who, taking five persons to a century, must have lived about 1500 A.D. On the other hand some accounts make him a son of Manik Chand and brother of Jai Chand of Kanauj; while fifteen names occur between him and Manik Chand in the genealogical tree of the Raja of Manda in Allahabad. Again, ten generations are said to have elapsed between Gudan Deo and Sakat Singh, who is said to have been a contemporary of Akbar, and if less than five persons to a century be taken, the date of Gudan Deo may be fixed approximately at 1400 A.D. But whoever this Gudan Deo was and wherever he lived, this much seems clear. He came from Benares on the pretence of a pilgrimage to Ramgaya, the island in the Ganges opposite Bindhachal, and then, seeing his opportunity, massacred the Bhar Raja and his retinue and reduced under his sway tappas Chaurasi, Chhiyanve and Upraudh. The tradition also attributes to him the conquest of the Khairagarh pargana in the district of Allahabad. Not a single place in the district is mentioned in the Musalman historians who deal with the period of the Pathan kings. The district lay off the direct road from Dehli to Bengal which passed though Kanauj, Ajodhya, Jaunpur and Ghazipur; and the course of events can only be based on conjecture. On the whole it appears probable that the Bhars were first ejected from Bhadohi by the Monas Rajputs during the thirteenth century. Their kingdom then continued in the wilder country to the south of the Ganges in tappas Chhiyanve, Chaurasi and Upraudh, and the contiguous portions of the Allahabad district until the last Bhar Raja was killed and his territory occupied by the Gaharwars under Gudan Deo about a century later, when the Bhars finally disappear from the history of the district. There can be no question that Bhadohi was subordinate to the Musalman governors of Jaunpur from 1376

onwards; and it is possible that the extinction of the Bhars was encouraged by or at least effected with the connivance of these rulers.

In 1394 Khwaja-i-Jahan, the Wazir, was placed in charge of all the country from Kanauj to Bihar, under the title of Malik-us-Sharq.* Soon after he declared his independence and assumed the title of Atabuk-i-Azam. On his death in 1399 his adopted son, Malik Mubarak, assumed the royal state under the title of Mubarak Shah, and two years later he was succeeded by his brother, Ibrahim Shah. The latter died in 1440 and was followed in turn by Mahmud Shah and Muhammad Shah. The former is important in the history of Mirzapur, because he took the fort of Chunar which at the beginning of the next century became the key of the east; and it was probably the latter who first allied himself with the powerful independent princes on the south of the river, who lent his successor, Husain, help in his struggle with the Lodis. In 1493 Sikandar Lodi marched on Chunar with the intention of chastising some of Husain Sharqi's nobles. These, however, after giving battle, retreated and shut themselves up in the fortress which Sikandar was unable to take. How or when the Baghel chiefs of Rewah had extended their rule up to the Ganges cannot be determined; but in the same year Kantit is described as a dependency of Panna,† and the Raja, whose name was Rai Bhid, was Raja of Bhath or Rewah.‡ In 1493 Sikandar Lodi, who was operating against Sultan Husain of Jaunpur, confirmed this Rai Bhid in possession of Kantit.§ The latter at first accompanied the emperor in his expedition, but shortly after fled in alarm from the camp. The following year Sikandar invaded his dominions in order to bring him to book, fought a battle with his son, Bir Singh Deo, at a place called Khan Ghati, somewhere in the south of Allahabad or Banda, and penetrated as far as Panna.‖ The invasion had little effect apparently, for the Sultan was compelled to beat a hasty retreat owing to the lack of provisions, though Rai

The Jaunpur kingdom.

* *E. H. I.*, vol. IV, p. 29.

† *Ibid*, vol. V, p. 95.

‡ Panna and Bhath are frequently confused in the Muhammadan historians.

§ From the account given in *E. H. I.*, vol. IV, pp. 461, foll. it would appear as if Rai Bhid held Chunar also and left it in the hands of Sikandar when he fled from the Sultan's camp.

‖ Probably Bandhogarh is meant, *cf. E. H. I.*, vol. IV, p. 461.

Bhid himself lost his life during his flight towards Sarguja. Meanwhile Sultan Husain had taken refuge in Bihar, and Lakhmi Chand, another son of Rai Bhid, and other chieftains wrote to him, telling him of Sikandar's difficulties and advising him to advance. Husain thereupon marched from Bihar at the head of a large force against Sikandar, who proceeded from Jaunpur to Chunar, crossing the Ganges at Kantit, and thence to Benares. Before encountering Husain, Sikandar managed to win over Salivahan, or Salbahan as he is called by the historians, another son of Rai Bhid, and with his help defeated Husain, who fled to Lakhnauti and never again troubled the dominions of the Lodi Sultans.

Sher Shah and the Mughals. The district now begins to play an important part in the history of Hindustan, owing to the strength of the fortress of Chunar; but the accounts given in the Musalman historians are exceedingly confused, and in order to understand the history of the period it is necessary to trace the course of events in districts other than Mirzapur. We have already seen that the fort fell into the hands of the Lodis in the reign of Sikandar Lodi; in that of Ibrahim Lodi it was entrusted to Taj Khan Sarang-khani, and the royal treasures were deposited there.* From Taj Khan it passed to Sher Khan Sur, better known as the emperor Sher Shah, whose name thus becomes intimately associated with the district. The real name of this far-seeing and ambitious man was Farid Khan. He was the son of one Hasan Khan, who with his father, Ibrahim Khan Sur, came to Hindustan in the reign of Bahlol Lodi from his home in the Sulaiman mountains and took service with Muhabbat Khan Sur, Daud-khail, to whom Bahlol had given in *jagir* the parganas of Hariana and Bahkela in the Panjab. After some years had elapsed, Ibrahim Khan left the service of Muhabbat Khan and entered that of Jamal Khan Sarang-khani of Hissar-Firozah; while Hasan Khan attached himself to Masnad-i-Ali Umar Khan Sarwani Kalkapur. Ibrahim Khan died shortly after and Umar Khan recommended Hasan Khan to Jamal Khan as a proper man to receive the *jagirs* which had belonged to his father, Ibrahim Khan. Hasan Khan thus entered the service of Jamal Khan, who not many years later was made governor of Jaunpur by Sikandar Lodi. Jamal Khan, who was much pleased with the services rendered by

* *E. H. I.*, vol. IV, p. 343.

Hasan Khan, took him with him to Jaunpur and bestowed on him in *jagir* the parganas of Sahsaram, Hajipur and Tanda, near Benares. This was the first connection of the family with this neighbourhood. Two of the parganas were handed over to Farid Khan for management; this he appears to have carried out with great success; but contiuual disputes took place both with his father and his other brothers, and ultimately in disgust Farid Khan determined to go and seek his fortunes at Agra. Here he attached himself to Daulat Khan Lodi, a commander of 12,000 horse, who procured him the *jagir* of the two parganas on his father's death. Meanwhile the Afghan nobles of the empire, disgusted with the treatment they were receiving at Ibrahim's hands, began to rise in revolt. The government of Bihar, Ghazipur and several of the eastern provinces was at the time in the hands of Lohani Afghans; and these, on the death of Darya Khan Lohani, governor of Bihar, set up his son, Bahadur Khan, as emperor under the title of Muhammad Shah. The whole country of Bihar soon fell into the hands of Muhammad Shah and Ibrahim raised a large force to repress the alarming insurrection. Before he could do anything, however, Daulat Khan Lodi, the governor of Lahore, fearing for his own safety, invited Babar and his Mughals to India; and the battle of Panipat in 1526 laid the whole country "from Bahrab to Bihar" at the feet of the invaders.

Ibrahim's defeat decided Farid Khan as to the course he should pursue. He was at this time at open enmity over the patrimonial inheritance with his brother Sulaiman; the latter had sought the protection of Muhammad Khan Sur Daud Sahu-khail, the governor of Chaundh, who threatened to make Farid Khan give up a share of his estates to Sulaiman. Farid Khan accordingly attached himself to Muhammad Shah, who made him deputy governor of his kingdom and conferred on him the title of Sher Khan for his bravery. After a time he retired to his own estates to pursue his own business, and the opportunity was taken by Muhammad Khan to try and undermine his influence with Muhammad Shah. Meanwhile, in 1527, Babar had sent Humayun eastward and had taken possession of all the country as far as Ghazipur. On his retirement, however, the Afghans regained control of affairs and Muhammad Khan, failing in his attempt to oust Sher Khan

by other means, assembled his army and drove the latter's forces out of parganas Malhu and Tanda. Sher Khan, finding himself unable to oppose Muhammad Khan, then went to Patna, where he procured, through some influential person, an introduction to Junaid Birlas, the confidential adviser of Babar. He accompanied that emperor in his expedition against Chanderi in 1527 and remained with him for some time, until Junaid Birlas, pleased with his services, put a force at his disposal and enabled him to recover his lost estates. Sher Khan now played a double game, for, while ostensibly throwing in his lot with the Mughals, he repaired once more to the court of Muhammad Shah, who again entrusted him with the affairs of his kingdom. In 1528 Babar re-took Oudh and Muhammad Shah appears to have died, leaving a son, Jalal Khan, who became titular emperor of Bihar under the name of Jalal-ud-din, his mother, Dadu, being appointed regent. The latter seems to have been a mere puppet in the hands of Sher Khan; for in the following year when Mahmud Khan Lodi, son of Sikandar Lodi, who had been set up as emperor by the Afghan nobles of the west, appeared in Bihar, the eastern Afghans, including Sher Khan, immediately rallied round him. Part of their army, said to have numbered 100,000 men, made a demonstration in the direction of Benares which was held by some of Jalal Khan's people, who hastily retired to Chunar; while another part advanced on that fortress direct and laid siege to it, only to abandon the siege as soon as news came that Babar was approaching and fly in confusion to the east. Babar then proceeded to Chunar, where he spent some days in hunting, and encamped near the junction of the Ganges and Ghagra. He was actually at peace with the king of Bengal; but this chieftain seems to have been casting jealous eyes on the kingdom of Bihar, the titular emperor of which, Jalal-ud-din, crushed between the Bengalis and Afghans, opened negotiations with the emperor and sought his aid. Ultimately Babar inflicted a severe defeat on the Bengalis and Afghans at Chaunsa; but the victory had little effect, for, as he retreated towards Agra, the Afghans began to press everywhere on his rear. He died the following year at Agra, leaving the affairs of the east in the same hopeless confusion as before.

E. H. I., vol. IV, p. 288.

As soon as Babar had retired, the king of Bengal made a bold attempt to execute his design of conquering Bihar and sent an army to effect it. Sher Khan, who practically had the whole province in his possession, while nominally acting as the deputy of Jalal-ud-din, moved out to oppose him ; and an action was fought in which Sher Khan was victorious. Immense booty fell into the hands of the victors, all of which Sher Khan quietly appropriated for himself without giving any to the Lohanis. This led to an estrangement between some of the Lohanis, headed by Jalal-ud-din himself, and Sher Khan ; and complicated intrigues ensued, in the course of which a plot was concocted to assassinate the latter. The plot fell through owing to the duplicity of Jalal-ud-din : but the latter ultimately, in order to overthrow the influence of Sher Khan, opened negotiations with the Bengal king, offering to hand him over the kingdom of Bihar in return for a *jagir* in Bengal. The king of Bengal accordingly sent a large force to conquer the province ; but this was once more defeated by Sher Khan ; while Jalal-ud-din, who accompanied the enemy, fled for refuge to Bengal, leaving Sher Khan undisputed master of Bihar.

Sher Khan obtains possession of the fort of Chunar

The next step in Sher Khan's advancement was the occupation of the important fort of Chunar in 1530 A.D. This was held, as has already been seen, by Taj Khan Sarang-khani. The latter was killed by one of his own sons, and his brothers, who acted as his lieutenants, secretly negotiated the surrender of the fort to Sher Khan, at the same time marrying him to Lad Malika, a widow of Taj Khan. In this way, besides a position of much strength, a large amount of treasure fell into the hands of Sher Khan, who appears also to have taken up his residence in the place.* Either in the same year or early in 1531 Mahmud Lodi enlisted his aid for the recovery of Jaunpur, while Humayun was engaged in the siege of Kalinjar, promising him Bihar in the event of success. On this condition Sher Khan joined Mahmud ; but all the time he was in league with the Mughals, and when the Afghan and Mughal forces met near Lucknow he treacherously withdrew his troops to Chunar, leaving Mahmud to be totally defeated.† Humayun, having thus overcome Sultan Mahmud, sent one

* *E. H. I.*, vol. IV, pp. 343 foll.
† *Ibid*, vol. IV, p. 347.

Hindu Beg to take over Chunar from Sher Khan, but the latter declined to give it up. Humayun accordingly advanced to take it while Sher Khan, leaving his eldest son, Jalal Khan, afterwards the emperor Islam Shah, in the fortress, retired with the bulk of his forces to the hills of Barkhunda. Meanwhile Bahadur Shah, the king of Gujerat, was threatening Humayun's possessions in the west. Of this Sher Khan was well aware; and knowing that Humayun would not be able to remain long in the east, he proposed that Humayun should leave Chunar in his hands, taking Kutb Khan, his son, with him as a hostage. To this proposal Humayun agreed and left the neighbourhood of Chunar to oppose the new danger threatening in the west.* The absence of Humayun now enabled Sher Khan to strengthen his power in the east. After Sultan Bahadur's defeat in Gujerat, he was joined by all the Afghan nobles in the service of that chieftain; and then, having obtained some money, he equipped his army and attacked Bengal, with the result that the whole of that province west of Monghyr fell into his hands. In 1535 Humayun returned from Gujerat to Agra and sent Hindu Beg to Jaunpur to report on the progress of Sher Khan's conquests. Sher Khan wrote to Hindu Beg assuring him of his loyalty to the emperor; but he did not desist from hostilities in Bengal, and in the same year sent his son, Jalal Khan, to attack Gaur. In 1536 Humayan marched towards Bihar and Bengal. As soon as Sher Khan heard of his advance he left Ghazi Sur and Bulaqi in charge of the fortress of Chunar and removed his family to Barkhunda.† When Humayun arrived before Chunar he held a consultation with his nobles as to whether he should first take it and then march to the relief of Gaur or whether he should march with all expedition to the latter place. Ultimately the emperor considered it more prudent not to leave so important a fortress as Chunar to be held by the enemy in his rear and laid siege to Chunar. The siege lasted nearly six months and the fortress ultimately fell into the hands of Humayun, who made over charge of it to Beg Mirak.‡ Chunar having fallen, Sher Khan pressed

* *E. H. I.*, vol. IV, p. 351.

† By this is apparently meant the hilly country round Rohtasgarh. Possibly it may be Bijaigarh, a fortress which Sher Khan also seems to have held.

‡ *E. H. I.*, vol. IV, p. 357; vol. V, p. 138.

the siege of Gaur with the greatest vigour and captured the place before Humayun could reach it.* Humayun then halted at Benares. Here he was met by an envoy from Sher Khan, who proposed that if Bengal was left in the latter's hands the emperor's authority should be recognised over Bihar. The proposal was accepted by Humayun; but only three days after Sultan Mahmud of Bengal, who had been driven out of Gaur by Sher Khan, came into the emperor's presence and persuaded him to invade Bengal.† Humayun accordingly advanced and reached Gaur in 1538, where he remained for some months.‡

Sher Shah.

Meanwhile Sher Khan attacked the Mughal garrisons in the emperor's rear. Both Benares and Monghyr fell to his arms. A force sent towards Bahraich drove out the Mughals as far as Sambhal in Moradabad, and another force, after capturing Jaunpur and killing the Mughal governor, began to move in the direction of Agra. Humayun was now compelled to retrace his steps, while Sher Khan in anticipation of his move westwards collected his army in the neighbourhood of Rohtasgarh. Here a consultation was held with the Afghan nobles, who decided that the opportunity was a good one for attacking the emperor. Sher Khan accordingly marched and took up a strong position near the ferry of Chaunsa where the Karamnasa joins the Ganges. For two months the armies lay confronting one another. Negotiations were again opened regarding the cession of Bengal to Sher Khan, and ultimately Humayun threw a bridge-of-boats across the Ganges with a view to transporting his army to the other side. Ere this could be accomplished, however, a treacherous attack was made by the Afghans on the Mughal encampment; the Mughals were scattered in all directions; the bridge was broken by the throng of fugitives; and Humayun himself was nearly drowned in crossing the river. The following year he suffered a still more severe defeat near Kanauj at the hands of Sher Shah, who had in the meantime assumed the title of Sultan and had become master of all Hindustan.

* *E. H. I.*, vol. IV, p. 370; vol. V, pp. 111, 141.

† *Ibid*, vol. IV, p. 368; vol. V, pp. 111, 141.

‡ *Ibid*, vol. IV, p. 368.

The Suris.

Nothing worthy of note occurred in Mirzapur during the reign of Sher Shah, and the only fact of importance connected with the district during that of his successor was the removal of the Suri treasures from Chunar to Gwalior.* But after the death of Islam Shah in 1553 the country fell into a state of hopeless confusion. As far as can be ascertained, Mirzapur was part of the nominal territories of Muhammad Adil Shah, for one of the first acts of this usurper was to march to Chunar and secure his possession of the fortress and treasures left there.† Some of the parganas in Benares and possibly also in Mirzapur appear to have been included in the *jagir* of Taj Khan Kirani. This nobleman, fearing for his life at the court of Adil Shah or as he is usually called, Adali, fled in 1554 from Gwalior to Chunar and shut himself up in the fortress. Thither he was followed by Adali and his general Himu, who defeated Taj Khan and recovered the fortress for his master.‡ Meanwhile two claimants arose in the west for the throne of Dehli. One was Ibrahim Khan Sur, a cousin of Sher Shah and brother-in-law of Adali. He was with Adali at Chunar, and fearing that he would be put into confinement, he fled from Chunar to his father, Ghazi Sur, at Biana. A force sent against him under Isa Khan was defeated at Kalpi, and when Adali advanced in person, Ibrahim Khan won over all his nobles to his side and compelled Adali to return to Chunar.§ He then proclaimed himself sovereign of Dehli and Agra, but his claim was immediately disputed by Ahmad Khan, a nephew of Sher Shah who had married another sister of Adali and assumed the title of Sultan Sikandar. Their rival armies met at Farah in the Muttra district and Ibrahim was defeated and driven out. Meanwhile Humayun, encouraged by the hopeless confusion of affairs, marched from Kabul and took Lahore. Sikandar advanced to meet him; Ibrahim Khan collected a new army and proceeded towards Kalpi; while Adali sent a large force under his general, Himu, to recover Dehli and Agra. Himu marched to Kalpi and defeated Ibrahim, who fled to Biana, which was besieged. Confusion now became

* *E. H. I.*, vol IV, p. 485.

† *Ibid*, vol. V, p. 45.

‡ *Ibid*, vol. IV, pp. 506 foll.; vol. V, p. 242; vol. VI, p. 199.

§ *Ibid*, vol. V, p. 243.

worse confounded by an invasion of Shams-ud-din Muhammad Khan Sur of Gaur. To meet the new danger in the east, Adali recalled Himu from Biana, defeated Muhammad Khan of Gaur at Chapparghata, where the latter was killed, and then returned to Chunar.* Himu was then sent to Dehli to drive out the Mughals; but the battle at Panipat in 1556, in which Himu was defeated and killed, put an end for ever to Adali's power in the west. It was not long before his career was closed in the east. At the end of 1559 Ali Quli Khan, Khan Zaman, was sent by Akbar to reduce Jaunpur and Khizr Khan, the son of Muhammad Khan of Gaur, who had assumed the title of Ghias-ud-din Bahadur Shah, advanced against Adali at Chunar to avenge the death of his father. Adali started eastwards to meet him, but was defeated and slain near Monghyr.† When news of this calamity reached them at Chunar, the Afghan nobles unanimously elected his son as their emperor under the title of Sher Shah II.‡ A large army was collected and led across the Ganges to recover Jaunpur, now held by Ali Quli Khan on behalf of Akbar. Jaunpur was besieged, but the attack was ultimately beaten off, the Afghan forces dispersed, and Sher Shah II driven away in flight. With his disappearance the Afghan rule came to an end; and the curtain falls on this troubled period of history with the surrender of the fort of Chunar. This place appears to have been held after Sher Shah II's flight by one Jamal Khan, Afghan, who negotiated with the imperialists for its surrender. He was promised five parganas in Jaunpur in return, and Mihr Ali Khan Sildoz was sent by the emperor to take over the fort from him.§ The episode is an interesting one as Mihr Ali was accompanied on this occasion by the historian Budaoni. Jamal Khan appears to have been dissatisfied with the terms offered him, and while dallying with Mihr Ali, opened negotiations with Khan Zaman at Jaunpur and Fateh Khan, the Afghan governor of Rohtasgarh. Mihr Ali and Budaoni at length left the place in disgust and it would seem that the fortress passed into the hands of Fateh Khan.|| It was in his

* E. H. I., vol. V, pp. 244-245.

† *Ibid*, vol. IV, pp. 608-9; Vol. V, p. 272.

‡ *Ibid*, vol. IV, p 508; Vol. V, p. 66.

§ *Ibid*, vol. V, pp. 494 foll. Blockman's *Ain-i-Akbari*, vol. I, p. 435.

|| Blochman: *Ain-i-Akbari*, vol. I, pp. 367, 396, 502.

possession in the sixth year of Akbar's reign or 1562 A.D. when the emperor, on his return from Karra, deputed Asaf Khan to besiege it. This frightened Fateh Khan into submission, and he sent a letter offering to surrender it. Sheikh Muhammad Ghaus and Asaf Khan were accordingly sent to take over the fort from him, and, when it had been delivered over, it was placed in the charge of Husain Khan Turkoman.* It was apparently a dependency of Jaunpur.

Akbar.

The references to the district during the reign of Akbar are few. In 1565, after the conclusion of peace with Khan Zaman, Akbar visited the famous fortress of Chunar in person and ordered it to be repaired and strengthened. Here too the emperor hunted elephants in the jungles.† Two years later, after Khan Zaman had for the second time rebelled and been defeated, all his estates, as well as those of Bahadur Khan, including Jaunpur, Benares, Ghazipur, the forts of Chunar and Zamania, as far as the ferry of Chaunsa, where conferred on Munim Khan, Khan Khanan.‡ This nobleman resided at Jaunpur, where he built the bridge over the Gumti, but Chunar formed a part of his estates till his death in Gaur at the beginning of 1576 A.D. For the last three years of this period he was also governor of Bihar and was continuously absent from Jaunpur and its dependencies. It was from Chunar that he started on the Bengal expedition in 1573 A.D.§ He was succeeded by Raja Surjan Hada of Rantambhor, who was apparently governor of the fort for six or seven years.‖ But after this nothing is known of the place. In the territorial distribution of Akbar the district of Mirzapur fell within the *Subahs* of Allahabad and Bihar and the *sarkars* of Allahabad, Benares, Chunar and Rohtas. The Benares and Chunar *sarkars* each comprised a single *dastur* of the same name, while of *sarkar* Allahabad there were in the district portions of two *dasturs*, those of Allahabad and Bhadohi. The pargana of Bhadohi "with a brick fort on the bank of the Ganges" included also tappa Kon. It had a cultivated area

* E. H. I., vol. V, p. 287.
† *Ibid*, vol. V, p. 306.
‡ *Ibid*, vol. V, p. 323.
§ *Ibid*, vol. VI, p. 39.
‖ *Ain-i-Akbari*, vol. I, pp. 409, 410.

of 73,252 *bighas* and paid a revenue of 3,660,918 *dams*, its military contingent being 200 horse and 5,000 foot soldiers. South of the Ganges lay the pargana of Kantit, comprising Upraudh, Chaurasi, Chhiyanve and Saktesgarh and assessed to a demand of 856,555 *dams* and contributing a force of 2,000 infantry and 50 horsemen to the army. The cultivated area is not given in the *Ain-i-Akbari*, and it would appear as if the country was little known. Taluqa Majhwa was subsequently carved out of pargana Kaswar in the *sarkar* of Benares to which it belonged in Akbar's time, and no separate figures are recorded for it. The *sarkar* of Chunar contained five *mahals* which are now in this district. Chunar with the *haveli* or suburban district had a cultivated area of 12,940 *bighas* paying a revenue of 833,908 *dams*, and furnished a military force of 18,000 foot and 500 horse. Larger than this was Bhuili with an area of 18,976 *bighas* and a revenue of 1,112,656 *dams*; while Ahirwarah, or as it is now called Ahraura, paid but 109,073 *dams* on an area of 1,858 *bighas*. North of the river lay then, as now, the small *mahal* called by the strange title of Qariat-in-rui-ab or "villages on this side of the river," known at the present time as Qariat Sikhar. The cultivated area is returned as 18,098 *bighas* and the revenue is set down as 845,371 *dams*. But none of these parganas except Chunar appear to have contributed any military force to the imperial armies. Most copies of the *Ain-i-Akbari* omit two *mahals* altogether from the list, namely Narwan and Hanwa. These however are necessary to complete the *sarkar*, and while the first still exists as a subdivision of the Benares district, the latter under the name of Bhagwat belongs to Mirzapur. It is evident from the historians that this part of the country was little known, but in those copies of the *Ain-i-Akbari* in which these parganas are entered they are said to be *sayarghul* or rent-free. It is not known when the name was changed from Hanwa to Bhagwat, but it appears probable that the pargana was held rent-free by Gaharwar Rajputs who had been converted to Islam. The pargana of Kera Mangraur under the name of Mangror was included in the *sarkar* of Rohtas in the *subah* of Bihar. Its cultivated area is entered as 29,168 *bighas* and its revenue as 924,000 *dams*, but no other details regarding it are given. The southern parganas of Robertsganj tahsil cannot be traced in the

Ain-i-Akbari; but if the tracts bearing their names were known to Akbar's revenue system, they may have been included either in the *sarkar* of Rohtas or in that of Bhatghora. The latter theory appears to be the most probable. The *sarkar* of Bhatghora lay in the *subah* of Allahabad and contained 39 *mahals* paying a revenue of 7,262,780 *dams* and contributing 57,000 infantry, 4,304 cavalry and 200 elephants to the army. But it is evident that the *sarkar* was very imperfectly known, for not only are the names of the constituent *mahals* not given, but there is considerable doubt regarding the correct spelling of the name itself. The true name of the *sarkar* is probably Bhathgahora, and it comprised a very extensive and ill-defined tract of country stretching from the Karwi subdivision of the Banda district in the west to the *sarkar* of Rohtas in the east. On the north it was bounded by the *mahals* Khairagarh and Kantit of *sarkar* Allahabad and the Jumna river and to the south it stretched as far as the *subah* of Garha Katanka. Besides being practically unknown all indications combine to show that the tract was under the suzerainty of the Baghel Rajas of Rewah who paid tribute and supplied troops as dependants of the Dehli throne.

Under Akbar's successors

Very little is known concerning the history of the district under the successors of Akbar. A large tract in the west was held by the Kantit Rajas, who were vassals of the Dehli court: Musalman *zamindars* appear to have been settled in Bhuili, Bhagwat, Chunar and Kera Mangraur, and the southern portion of the district was in the possession of the Chandel Rajas of Agori Barhar. None of these tracts seem to have been disturbed. Only in the extreme north and extreme south are there any events to record. In the latter direction a small semi-independent principality was set up by a family of Benbansi Rajputs in Singrauli. The founder of the family so far as can be ascertained first rose into prominence by marrying the daughter of the chief of Raipur in Rewah. He and his descendants gradually acquired possession of the whole of Singrauli, till the third in descent was driven out by the combined forces of the Rajas of Agori Barhar and Bardi about 1550. After this, for nine generations, the family remained in exile. Next two brothers, Dariao and Dalel, said to be the twelfth in descent

from the founder of the house, seized and divided between them a portion of their ancient dominions, Dalel taking the Rewah lands and Dariao those now falling within the district of Mirzapur. Subsequently Dariao slew Dalel and usurped his inheritance, becoming thus lord of all Shahpur Singrauli. His son, Fakir Sah, obtained the *tilak* as mark of sovereignty and assumed the sacred thread as well as the title of Raja, apparently about 1700 A.D. The Rajas of Agori Barhar have always claimed feudal suzerainty over Singrauli, but it is not clear whether Fakir Sah ever paid them any tribute. But Balwant Singh, on the expulsion of the Chandels, imposed an annual contribution of Rs. 701, which is at the present day paid to the Agori Rajas. In Bhadohi somewhat similar events took place. The Monas estates in the pargana appear, so far as our authorities go back, to have been divided between the sons of one Sagar Rai, Ram Chandra and Jagdis Rai. In the reign of Shahjahan one Jodh Rai, grandson of Ramchandra, is said to have received a *zamindari sanad* for the whole pargana from the emperor. He was subsequently killed by a governor of Allahabad. Jodh Rai's interest appears to have passed to his brother, Madan Singh, who handed it on to his own three sons, Zorawar Singh, Achal Singh and Gaj Singh. In their time the Monas family reached the limits of its power and prosperity; and it is not till the imposing fabric of the Mughal empire began to totter to its fall that its peace was again disturbed. Zorawar Singh, Achal Singh and Gaj Singh all seem to have died about 1723 A.D. They left numerous descendants among whom the pargana of Bhadohi was divided. Ultimately about 1728 A.D. Jaswant Singh, the seventh of the sons of Zorawar Singh, succeeded in ousting all the rest of the family. He gave one of his sisters in marriage to Muhammad Khan Bangash, assumed charge of the whole pargana, established himself at Suriawan and took to himself the title of Raja. He did not however enjoy his power for very long. Ban Singh, a grandson of Gaj Singh, went to Pirthipat Singh, Raja of Partabgarh, at that time a chief of some note, who had gone security for Jaswant Singh for the revenue of the pargana, and besought his assistance in the recovery of his share of the inheritance. Jaswant Singh was at this time in arrears with his revenue, and would not pay,

so Raja Pirthipat led a considerable force against him, attacked him in his fort at Suriawan, and carried him off as a prisoner. This event took place about 1739 A.D. Raja Pirthipat himself, it would seem, still remaining answerable as surety for the revenue of the pargana, made it over for management to the heirs of Achal Singh, Zorawar Singh and Gaj Singh. The heirs of the last received tappa Bargaon; this adjoins pargana Kaswar in Benares, a *zamindari sanad* for which was granted in 1743 by the Wazir Kamr-ud-din Khan to Raja Balwant Singh. A friendship sprang up between him and Sheobaksh Singh, son of Ban Singh, and he ultimately became the latter's security for the payment of the revenue. This was the first step in the absorption of the whole pargana within the dominions of the Benares house, whose fortunes it now remains to trace.

Rise of the Benares house.

Early in the reign of Muhammad Shah the *sarkars* of Benares, Jaunpur, Ghazipur and Chunar were given in *jagir* to a courtier named Na'wab Murtaza Khan. This nobleman appears to have done little but collect the revenue, which amounted to some five lakhs annually, and that with very varying success. In 1722 Saadat Khan obtained Oudh and five years later had the *sarkars* transferred to his jurisdiction under the condition that he paid seven lakhs annually to Murtaza Khan. Saadat Khan seems to have paid but little attention to his new acquisition. He was content to make a little money on his investment and leased the provinces for eight lakhs to his friend and dependant, Mir Rustam Ali. The latter was indolent and incapable to a degree; but he managed to retain charge of the *sarkars* for a long period, and it was not till 1738 that he incurred the displeasure of Saadat Khan. The governor appears to have done little of the management himself and to have been entirely dependent on his subordinates, chief among whom was Mansa Ram, a Gautam Bhuinhar and a *zamindar* of Thitharia in pargana Kaswar, the old name of the village now called Gangapur. According to one account this Mansa Ram made himself so indispensable to Rustam Ali that the latter solicited from the emperor Muhammad Shah, through Murtaza Khan, that the title of Raja Bahadur should be conferred on Mansa Ram. The latter however declined this honour for himself and begged that it might be granted to his

son, Balwant Singh. Mansa Ram seems to have become, in all but name, the governor of the four *sarkars*, and when Saadat Khan, in the face of constant complaints of mismanagement from the inhabitants, directed his son-in-law and deputy, Abdul Mansur Khan, better known as Safdar Jang, to call Rustam Ali to account, the latter sent Mansa Ram to Jaunpur to make his peace with the Nawab. In the negotiations which then took place Mansa Ram managed to clear the Nawab's mind from the doubts he had regarding Rustam Ali and had secured his favour by the promise of an additional four lakhs, when Saadat Khan sent a letter from Dehli, whither he had repaired at the emperor's command, ordering that the *sarkar* of Ghazipur should be separated from the rest and given to one Sheikh Abdullah. Active intrigues were now set on foot; and while Mansa Ram was endeavouring to frustrate the designs of his principal's enemies at the court of the Nawab, his own enemies at that of Rustam Ali represented that all the trouble had arisen through the double dealing of Mansa Ram. Accordingly Mansa Ram determined to take an independent attitude; and succeeded in securing for himself in the name of his son, Balwant Singh, the three *sarkars* of Benares, Jaunpur and Chunar. Balwant Singh's power was, however, limited to some extent, as his charge did not include either the *kotwali* of Benares, the governorship of the Jaunpur fort, or the control of the Benares mint. Shortly after this transaction Mansa Ram died, and his son, having gained an introduction to Nawab Amir Khan, subahdar of Allahabad, presented through him a *nazar* of Rs. 21,775 at the court at Dehli, and obtained from the emperor a *sanad* conferring on him the title of Raja, the *zamindaris* of Kaswar, Afrad, Katehir and Bhagwat and the confirmation of the lease of the three *sarkars*.

Balwant Singh.

From that time forward Raja Balwant Singh strengthened his position and gradually attained a state of almost complete independence. One of his first acts was to build a fortified residence at Gangapur, which remained his headquarters for several years. For ten years nothing occured; the Nawab Wazir, somewhat distrustful of Balwant Singh, sent officers to watch him and see that his revenue was punctually paid, and Balwant Singh remained quietly carrying on the administration from

Gangapur and biding his opportunity. A chance came in 1748 and while Safdar Jang was absent at Dehli, he notified his independence by stopping the payment of revenue and carrying war into the neighbouring territory of Allahabad.

Reduction of Bhadohi.

His first armed overture in this district was in the pargana of Bhadohi. It will be remembered that Raja Pirthipat Singh of Partabgarh had replaced the three sons of Madan Singh in charge of the pargana, himself giving security for the due payment of the revenue. Arrears however rapidly accumulated, and the Raja was not unwilling to get rid of his responsibility. He was on friendly terms with Balwant Singh, who was already Sheobaksh Singh's surety for tappa Bargaon, which adjoins pargana Kaswar, and the two sought means to oust the Monas *zamindars*. An opportunity for coming to an arrangement was not long wanting. In 1748, soon after the defeat and death of Qaim Khan Bangash, the son and successor of Muhammad Khan, governor of Allahabad, who had married the daughter of Jaswant Singh, the Monas *zamindar* of Bhadohi, the Nawab Wazir, Safdar Jang, dispossessed the Bangash family of all their possessions in the Doab. The capacity of the Nawab's agents soon became intolerable to the Afghans of Farrukhabad, who rose in revolt and set up Ahmad Khan, Qaim Khan's brother, as their chief. The revolt led to the defeat of the Nawab's armies and the temporary subversion of Safdar Jang's authority throughout the whole of the lower portion of the country between the Jumna and the Ganges; for Ahmad Khan, after defeating in succession Nawal Rai, the Nawab's deputy, at Khudaganj and the Nawab himself at Ram Chhatauni, established his authority at Farrukhabad and marched on Allahabad, which was held by Baka-ullah Khan and Ali Quli Khan on behalf of the Wazir. The various petty chiefs now hastened to make their submission to the conqueror, and among them were Rajas Pirthipat Singh and Balwant Singh. Meanwhile these chieftains had taken advantage of the subversion of the Wazir's authority to carry out their views regarding pargana Bhadohi. Balwant Singh paid up the arrears of revenue due on the pargana and received the pargana in exchange. The *zamindar* of Bhadohi at this time was Daswant Singh, a man who had taken little trouble to conciliate Mansa Ram and had also made himself obnoxious to Balwant Singh. He had engaged in a

private feud with Rustam Khan, an officer of Raja Balwant Singh, and in consequence of this his stronghold of Bhadohi was taken and captured, and he himself was killed. Bhadohi was occupied by the Raja's troops, and deeds of mortgage were taken from all the Monas landlords, by which Balwant Singh was recognised as their overlord. The *zamindars* were at the same time secured in the possession of certain rights and privileges; but not long after the whole pargana with the exception of the tappa of Bargaon, which was left in the hands of Sheobaksh Singh, was put in the charge of dependants of the Raja.

Meanwhile Ahmad Khan Bangash, who had married the daughter of Sher Zaman Khan, a leading Musalman of Jaunpur, appointed the latter's nephew, Sahib Zaman Khan, to take charge of the Benares province. Balwant Singh opened negotiations with the new viceroy, who did not at first feel strong enough to resist him; but Zaman Khan subsequently attacked and took Jaunpur, while Balwant Singh retired to Mariahu and sent envoys to Ahmad Khan at Allahabad, whither he soon after repaired in person. He obtained from the Bangash permission to retain half his territory and returned to Mariahu. While these events were taking place in the east, Safdar Jang had secured Maratha aid at Dehli and began to advance towards Farrukhabad. This forced Ahmad Khan to raise the siege of Allahabad and march westwards to oppose the Wazir's advance. A battle was fought at Qadirganj, as a result of which Ahmad Khan was totally defeated and the Nawab's authority was completely re-established. The Wazir continued his advance eastwards, determined to wreck vengeance on Rajas Pirthipat and Balwant Singh. Both chieftains were summoned to his presence. Raja Pirthipat obeyed the summons and repaired to Karra Manikpur, only to be assassinated in the Nawab's presence in July 1751; but Balwant Singh adopted the more judicious course of sending his *vakil* with presents. These were of no avail in allaying the Wazir's wrath, and a strong force was sent under Ali Quli Khan, governor of Allahabad, against Balwant Singh. Ali Quli Khan advanced to Tamachabad on what is now the grand trunk road on the borders of the Mirzapur and Benares districts, ejecting Balwant Singh's garrison from Bhadohi fort on the way, and was there met by a letter from Balwant Singh

addressed to the Nawab Wazir. In this the Raja expressed surprise at hearing of Ali Quli Khan's advance against him, and pleaded that if it was in any way connected with his submission to Ahmad Khan, the same was quite upon compulsion and that his loyalty to the Nawab Wazir had been shown by the regular payment of revenue. Ali Quli Khan treated the Raja's messenger with contempt and caused him to be expelled the camp with a verbal message to his master that he would reply to the letter in person in the course of two or three days. It was now debated in the Raja's camp whether the wiser course would be to flee to the hill country south of the Ganges or to give battle to the subahdar. In the end the latter course was resolved on. Its result was the complete discomfiture of Ali Quli Khan, with the loss of all his guns and camp-equipage and the re-occupation of Bhadohi. Balwant Singh at once followed up his victory by an embassy to Dehli, and obtained a *khilat* from the emperor. Safdar Jang, who had never openly displayed his share in Ali Quli Khan's enterprise, now disowned it; but neither he nor his son, Shuja-ud-daula, ever forgave Balwant Singh his success.

Capture of the forts of Patita, Latifpur and Bijaigarh.

Fortune had thus so far declared in favour of Balwant Singh; but the latter felt far from secure in his possessions and determined on a new adventure. He moved his residence to Ramnagar on the south bank of the Ganges, and, while living there, formed a design to possess himself of the fortress of Bijaigarh in Mirzapur, as a place of safety for his treasure. The approach to Bijaigarh, however, is commanded by the forts of Patita and Latifpur, and as the garrisons in these places could render any movement of troops to and from Bijaigarh difficult, Balwant Singh first resolved on their capture. The fort of Patita is situated at the foot of the Vindhyan hills about nine miles from Chunar and was erected by the ancestors of the then possessor, Jami'at Khan, who were *zamindars* of pargana Bhagwat. Balwant Singh at first tried to gain the fort by strategy, but was constantly foiled by the wariness and resolution of its Musalman masters. At length Jami'at Khan fell sick and Balwant Singh at once attacked the fort. Jami'at Khan, enfeebled as he was, nevertheless made a brave defence, until the supply of provisions ran short. He then evacuated the place and escaped to the hills behind, where he shortly afterwards

died, worn out by privation and fatigue. Balwant Singh thereupon occupied the fort and repaired its defences. The way being so far cleared, he advanced the next year to Latifpur. This fort is strongly built of stone and occupies a position of great strength and importance, at the foot of the Sukrit pass, on the highroad to the south. It was erected by one Malik Farrukh *zamindar* of Ahraura, as his principal stronghold and treasury. Malik Farrukh died about the time that the Patita fort was taken, leaving two sons, Malik Ahmad and Malik Ahsan, the former in possession of the fort at Ahraura and the latter in that of Latifpur. Balwant Singh, at first lulled the two sons into security and then suddenly attacked Ahraura, which he took after six hours' fighting. Malik Ahmad was killed in trying to escape, and Malik Ahsan, hearing of his brother's death, evacuated Latifpur and fled to Zamania. This fort, like that of Patita, was repaired and put in a state of defence. The way to the south now being open, Balwant Singh proceeded towards the reduction of Bijaigarh. First of all a large force was stationed at Latifpur to make incessant raids on the neighbouring pargana of Sukrit and to plunder the country of the Raja of Bijaigarh. During the course of the year a road was made through the jungle and most of the villages of Barhar were occupied. The fort of Bijaigarh consisted at this time of a rough entrenchment of stone to strengthen the natural defences of the hill on which the fort is situated, and was held by one Bijai Singh. The latter was induced to surrender the fortress to Balwant Singh, for Rs. 50,000, and the other officials in the place fled to Rohtasgarh. The fortress was then placed in thorough repair and extensive buildings were erected for the accommodation of the Raja and his suite and for the custody of his money and valuables. Shortly after, in the same year, Balwant Singh pushed his arms to the south and reduced, after a short siege, the fort of Agori on the Son. He thus established his authority over the whole of the country wrested by the Chandels from the Balands and drove out the ruling prince, whose family remained in exile until the establishment of British rule. The Singrauli chieftain, although the remoteness and poverty of his country protected him from invasion, made terms with Balwant Singh and agreed to pay an annual tribute.

Reduction of Kera Mangraur.

His next step was in the pargana of Kera Mangraur. The pargana at this time was held by one Daim Khan, a descendant of the original Gaharwar immigrants who had afterwards embraced the faith of Islam. In the reign of Farrukhsiyar, Daim Khan and other *zamindars* rose in rebellion and expelled the imperial officers. Troops were sent against them and drove them from their possessions in the *sarkar* of Benares, leaving Daim Khan, however, in possession of Kera Mangraur. The latter then attempted to regain his lost estates by giving a daughter in marriage to Mir Farzand Ali, the son of Mir Rustam Ali. Shortly after, however, Mir Rustam Ali lost his authority; and in 1749-50 Dasa Ram, brother of Mansa Ram, who was tahsildar of Sheopur, was ejected by Balwant Singh and took refuge with Daim Khan. The latter treated Dasa Ram with great kindness, hoping by this means to recover his possessions in Benares, and procured for him a lease of Chainpur and other parganas. Balwant Singh, at this juncture induced Dasa Ram to attack Daim Khan. The attack was successful and Dasa Ram overran and plundered the whole of Kera Mangraur. But Daim Khan was able, with the aid of Raja Rajrup of Makri Khoh, to raise a force and recover his estates at the end of 1754 A.D., Dasa Ram being carried off prisoner by Raja Rajrup. This roused Balwant Singh, who towards the end of 1754, collected an army and finally drove Daim Khan out of Kera Mangraur. The Raja, being thus *de facto* in possession, soon after secured his title by obtaining an *altamgha* or royal grant from the emperor Alamgir II, by which the whole pargana was granted to him in perpetuity, free of revenue. It was on the basis of this deed that Raja Mahip Narayan Singh was confirmed in possession of Kera Mangraur by Warren Hastings in 1781.

The attempt on Chunar and the settlement between Shuja-ud-daula and Balwant Singh.

Balwant Singh's next plan was to attempt to gain possession of the great fortress of Chunar which had, during all the intrigues and disturbances of this period, remained uninterruptedly in the hands of Safdar Jang, who kept his own governor in it. Safdar Jang died in 1754, and taking advantage of this, Balwant Singh, commenced negotiations with the governor with a view to the surrender of the fort to him. All the preliminaries had been arranged and agreed upon, when the knowledge of the fact was conveyed

to Shuja-ud-daula. This attempt could not be overlooked and, the Nawab's patience being exhausted, a large army was collected and marched to Jaunpur. Balwant Singh, thinking himself not strong enough to resist, fled with all his belongings to the fort of Latifpur. His mother-in-law, the widow of Babu Buriar Singh, refused to follow his example and made a brief stand at the fort of Pindra, about twenty miles from Benares; but, although she earned the commendation of the Nawab for her bravery her opposition was powerless to check the advance of the Nawab's army which continued its march to Benares and, on finding that Balwant Singh had fled, crossed the Ganges in pursuit. Balwant Singh now set fire to and abandoned the fort of Latifpur, taking refuge in Bijaigarh. The Nawab's troops found the hill country difficult and almost inaccessible, and at length Balwant Singh, seeing their hesitation, made overtures for a compromise. This Shuja-ud-daula was not unready to grant, for in truth Balwant Singh had attained so commanding a position in the country that it would have been impossible to recover any revenue, if he was openly hostile. It was accordingly settled that the revenue to be paid by the Raja for the *sarkars* of Benares, Jaunpur and Chunar should be raised to twelve lakhs of rupees a year; and the Nawab, after investing him with a *khilat* and confirming him in his charge, withdrew to Fyzabad.

Occupation of pargana Kantit.

Balwant Singh was now in high favour. He returned to Ramnagar and at once determined to replace Fazl Ali in the *sarkar* of Ghazipur. The latter was an old enemy of his who had done his best to induce Shuja-ud-daula to expel him from his *zamindari*. This he succeeded in doing through the good offices of Beni Bahadur, the Nawab's deputy, in 1757. In the following year pargana Chaunsa was added to his possessions; and in 1759 he secured his hold over the only part of the district of Mirzapur, that was not already in his hands, by the expulsion of Raja Bikramajit from pargana Kantit. Pargana Kantit belonged to the *subah* of Allahabad and Raja Bikramajit, confident of the help of the *zamindars* of Bundelkhand and relying on the strength of his fort of Saktesgarh, ceased after 1752 A.D. to pay revenue. Muhammad Quli Khan, who then held the governorship of Allahabad, sent a force under his deputy, Rai Partap Singh, to coerce

the defaulter. Bikramajit submitted and agreed to pay up his arrears, at the same time giving substantial security for the payment. Application was made to Balwant Singh, who came forward and was accepted as security. Bikramajit, who was involved in debt and always spent more than his income, made no attempt to pay. Balwant Singh sent officers to seize him on the first opportunity, and Bikramajit fled to Rewah while the whole of his dominions were annexed.

Apearance of the British. In 1760 Prince Ali Gauhar, afterwards the emperor Shah Alam, came eastwards and persuaded Muhammad Quli Khan, governor of Allahabad, to help him in his designs on Patna and Bengal. The Nawab, Shuja-ud-daula, promised to assist if he was allowed to place his dependants and family in the fort at Allahabad. He was accordingly given a letter for Najaf Khan, then in command of the fort, permitting him to occupy it when necessity arose, and the Prince with Muhammad Quli Khan proceeded to invest Patna. The siege had almost been brought to a successful termination, when news was brought that the Nawab Wazir had treacherously seized the fort at Allahabad, turning Najaf Khan out. This caused a retreat and Shuja-ud-daula promptly directed Balwant Singh to bar its progress. The forces met at Sarai Said Raja, where Shah Alam was permitted to go his way while Muhammad Quli Khan was compelled to surrender at discretion and was sent a prisoner to the Nawab Wazir. The latter next induced Shah Alam to join him in an attempt to regain the western provinces which he said might easily be wrested from the Marathas who had been disastrously defeated at Panipat in 1761 A. D. by Ahmad Shah Abdali. He came to meet the emperor at Benares in order to arrange matters, hoping at the same time that he might get possession of the person of Balwant Singh; but the latter at once retired to the hills with all his property and excused himself from appearing on the score of illness. After this Balwant Singh was left undisturbed for two years, until in 1763 Mir Qasim Ali of Patna, having broken faith with the English, came to Benares and began those intrigues with Shah Alam and Shuja-ud-daula which led to a campaign with the Company. The emperor and the Nawab Wazir, having been won over by Mir Qasim Ali, marched with all their forces to Benares

but Balwant Singh, on their approach, fearing treachery, retired to his hill fortresses. Circumstances, however, were too strong for him on this occasion, and unwillingly he was compelled to bring 7,000 men to join their army at Daudnagar. He showed no enthusiasm in the fight, and after the battle of Bahari his forces were separated from those of the rest of the army. In 1764 A.D. took place the battle of Buxar which laid Oudh at the feet of the English and brought the emperor, Shah Alam, a suppliant to the English camp, while Balwant Singh retired with all his force to Ramnagar. As soon as Major Munro with the British troops and the emperor arrived there, he fled to Latifpur, but he was persuaded by friendly assurances to come back to Benares, where he was presented to the emperor and cofirmed in possession of his territories. At the same time he was compelled to make a contribution of eight lakhs for the payment of the British troops, while a small force was despatched to occupy the fort of Chunar. This was the first attempt on the fortress. It ended in failure. A treaty was now concluded between the emperor Shah Alam and the East India Company, by virtue of which the province of Benares was transferred to the British, but the engagement ultimately came to nothing as the Court of Directors refused to sanction the transaction. Shuja-ud-daula was not consulted in the arrangements, and this added to the resentment due to his recent defeat at Buxar. He accordingly determined to try the fortune of war once more. He actually got as far as Sheopur with his army, but he was again defeated, after a brief and very inglorious fight, by Colonel Carnac, the English commander, who was left master of the situation. The latter sent for Balwant Singh, who, on Shuja-ud-daula's approach, had again fled to Latifpur, granted him the government of the four *sarkars* and left Mr. Marriott as resident at Benares, with a few troops, to ensure regular payment of the revenue. The British forces next advanced towards Allahabad, a small force being at the same time despatched to capture Chunar. The siege of the fortress lasted over a month, and a night attack on it failed, After being battered however for some time, a breach was effected in the south-western rampart and the garrison surrendered. Meanwhile Shuja-ud-daula had been driven out of Allahabad and defeated at Kora, and the important fort at

the former place had fallen into the hands of the British. Here peace was ultimately concluded under a treaty by which the province of Allahabad was given to the emperor, the fort to the English in exchange for Chunar, and the province of Benares was restored to the Nawab Wazir on the condition that Balwant Singh should remain in possession. This step, however, brought about no improvement in the relationship between the Raja and the Nawab. In 1767 the latter sought and obtained a personal interview with Lord Clive, endeavouring to obtain his consent to the expulsion of Balwant Singh. This Clive refused, while consenting to the enhancement of the revenue by ten lakhs. In 1768 another determined attempt was made to eject Balwant Singh and, when the Governor-General, Mr. John Cartier, arrived at Benares to arrange matters, to seize his person. Peace was with difficulty arranged, but only after payment of a contribution of ten lakhs to the Nawab.

Chet Singh.

In 1770 Raja Balwant Singh died, and a dispute at once arose regarding the question of succession. His only legitimate issue was a daughter by his wife, Rani Gulab Kunwar, whose father was Bariar Singh of Pindra. He had, however, a son named Chet Singh, whose claims were successfully urged by Babu Ausan Singh, the confidential agent and most influential man in the employment of the late Raja, to the exclusion of Mahip Narayan, the infant son of Balwant Singh's daughter, who had been married to Drigbijai Singh, a *zamindar* of Hajipur. On hearing of Balwant Singh's death, the Nawab Wazir immediately started from Fyzabad, but was met at Jaunpur by Chet Singh, who hastened to make his peace with him. A *nazar* of 22 lakhs was presented to the Nawab, who visited Benares and Ramnagar in person and invested the successor of Balwant Singh with a costly dress of honour and the title of Raja. Nothing now occurred for several years. Shuja-ud-daula was busily engaged in intrigues to conquer Rohilkhand, and in 1772 Warren Hastings visited Benares and had a conference with the Nawab Wazir, as a result of which British troops were sent to aid him against the Rohillas. It is said that on this occasion the Nawab sounded Warren Hastings as to the expulsion of Chet Singh, but was ultimately induced to forego his plans and to grant him a new *sanad.*

Shuja-ud-daula died in 1775, and in the next year there arrived in Calcutta, General Clavering, Colonel Monson and Philip Francis, who formed the well known party of opposition to Warren Hastings in the Council at Calcutta. Through the agency of Mr. John Bristow, who was appointed Resident at Lucknow in succession to Mr. Middleton, Warren Hastings's nominee, a treaty was arranged with Asaf-ud-daula, the successor of Shuja-ud-daula, by which the province of Benares, including "all the districts dependent on Raja Chet Singh" was ceded to the East India Company. A *sanad* was given to the Raja confirming him in his *zamindari* and in the civil and criminal administrations thereof, subject to a tribute of *sicca* Rs. 22,66,180, and on condition of his adopting measures for the interest and security of the country and the preservation of the peace: he was also allowed to coin money. A resident was appointed at Benares in the person of Mr. Fowke, a creature of Philip Francis and a man of little character or ability, to superintend matters in the province; while Chet Singh continued the administration of his principality. Though far from being the equal of his father, Chet Singh was a man of much shrewdness and ability. He continued Balwant Singh's policy of absorbing the subordinate *zamindars* and, wherever he came in contact with the supreme government, skilfully exploited the divisions which existed in the Governor General's Council at Calcutta.

His rebellion.

In 1777 matters took a change. In that year both Mr. Monson and General Clavering died; and their successors refused to play the part of opposition to Hastings. Rumours had for some time been abroad that General Clavering was to be appointed Governor-General in succession to Hastings; and Chet Singh's accredited agent at Calcutta, in anticipation of the change, had transferred all his and his master's attentions to the man he thought was to be Governor General. The hopes of Warren Hastings's enemies, however, were upset by the General's death; and Hastings being once more in control of the Council resolved to humble those who had intrigued with his opponents. Among the latter he reckoned Chet Singh. Bristow was now replaced by Mr. Middleton at Lucknow, and Fowke was removed to make place for Mr. Markham, who was directed to very forcibly demonstrate to the Raja the nature of his position. Orders were issued

for the restoration of Ausan Singh, who had been expelled by Chet Singh; his agents were treated with disrespect, and all sorts of rumours regarding the Raja were spread abroad by one Amrit Singh. For a time Chet Singh acquiesced in the demands made on him from Calcutta, but trouble first began in 1778, when on account of the war with France he was required to contribute an extraordinary subsidy of two lakhs for the maintenance of two regiments of sepoys to replace those that had been sent from Benares to the Deccan. The money was realised with difficulty, and when in the next year the demand was repeated it had to be enforced by a couple of battalions at Ramnagar. A similar course was adopted in 1780, and in November of that year, when an attack was threatened both by the Nizam and the Marathas, Warren Hastings called upon the Raja to furnish a cavalry contingent of two thousand horse. He pleaded inability and the number was reduced to fifteen hundred, and finally to a thousand; but in spite of this Chet Singh still refused to comply. Warren Hastings then resolved to punish Chet Singh for his contumacy and to impose on him a fine of fifty lakhs. In 1781 he proceeded in person towards Benares, and was met at Buxar by Chet Singh, who was accompanied by some two thousand men fully armed. On arriving at Benares on 14th August he wrote to the Raja, demanding an immediate explanation of his conduct, and received an evasive and unsatisfactory reply. Thereupon, on the 16th of August, the Governor-General sent the Resident to arrest the Raja in his palace at Shivala-ghat. The events that there took place belong properly to the history of Benares: and it will be sufficient here to give the briefest outline of what happened till the scene of operations shifts into the Mirzapur district. A large force of the Raja's adherents assembled, the Raja was rescued, a general rising of the inhabitants took place, and ultimately, after an ill-managed attack on Ramnagar, the Governor-General found himself left with a force of but 450 men, with whom he fled on the night of 22nd August to Chunar, then garrisoned by a detachment under Lieutenant-Colonel Blair.

Warren Hastings at Chunar and the expulsion of Chet Singh.

Meanwhile Chet Singh had betaken himself to Latifpur, where he succeeded in collecting a force, irregular and regular, estimated at about 22,000 men, besides camp followers. The whole country

rose, and the disturbances even extended to Oudh and Bihar. The Governor-General remained for some time at Chunar, in a position of considerable danger, without reinforcements. He attempted to communicate with Colonel Morgan, then at Cawnpore, but all his communications seem to have been intercepted. Colonel Morgan, however, acted upon a report which reached him through other channels and despatched a force of two regiment of sepoys, 30 European artillerymen, and two companies of a European regiment, with five guns, under the command of Major Crabb, to the assistance of the Governor-General. At the same time Lieutenant Polhill, who was in command of six companies of the Nawab Wazir's sepoys at Allahabad, and Major Roberts, with a regiment from Lucknow which had been intended for the Governor-General's bodyguard during his proposed visit to the Nawab, were also summoned to Chunar. On August 27th, Lieutenant Polhill arrived. He remained for some time on the opposite bank of the river, and attacked and dispersed a force under Shahab Khan, which was holding the town and fort of Sikhar. The enemy had, meantime, collected in some force at Patita, which was then a considerable and fortified town. Major Popham detached Captain Blair on September 3rd, with about 550 men and two guns, to surprise their camp. The attacking force found the enemy, about 4,000 strong, with six guns, posted ready to receive them. An obstinate engagement ensued, ending in the defeat of the rebels. They fled in disorder to the fort, leaving four of their guns and a quantity of ammunition on the field. The attacking force, however, was not strong enough to follow up its advantage, and retired. On September 10th, Major Crabb arrived, and on the 13th Major Roberts. Two days later the detachment under Lieutenant Polhill crossed the river and joined the camp under the fort. The whole force at the disposal of the Governor-General thus amounted to three companies of European infantry with thirty artillerymen, four and a half regiments of Company's sepoys, and six companies of the Nawab's bodyguard. With this force an immediate attack on Patita and Latifpur was resolved upon. Guides opportunely presented themselves, one Nand Lal, a *vakil*, offering to take the troops to Patita, and Bandhu Khan, a resident of Chunar, proposing for a reward to lead the English troops by

a circuitous and unfrequented jungle path by which the defences of the Sukrit path could be turned. A force was accordingly sent under Major Crabb by this route to attack Latifpur, while Major Popham, with the other division, simultaneously marched out to Patita. The combination was thoroughly successful. The force under Major Crabb, under the guidance of Bandhu Khan, reached Lobra Sukrit above the pass without hindrance, while that under Major Popham, conducted by Nand Lal, arrived in safety in the neighbourhood of Patita. The fort of Patita was at this time held on behalf of Chet Singh by one Ballam Das, while the Raja himself lay at Latifpur with an army said to have numbered about 50,000 men of all arms. On hearing of the arrival of Major Crabb's force at Lohra Sukrit, Chet Singh despatched an officer with six companies of sepoys, one thousand matchlockmen and two guns to oppose it, and ordered another officer to follow in support with 3,000 matchlockmen. Here a sharp engagement took place between the opposing armies at daybreak on the following day and resulted in the discomfiture of the enemy, who fled in confusion to Latifpur. The same morning Major Popham advanced to attack the outworks of Patita and carried them without trouble. The fort was next battered with guns and ultimately carried by storm on September 20th with only the loss of eleven men, the garrison escaping to Latifpur. Word was now brought that the British troops were advancing on Latifpur from Lohra Sukrit and Chet Singh, who had been frustrated in his design of seeking refuge at Patita by the capture of that place, turned to meet them. His people, thinking that he had abandoned the fort, now left it, having first put to death thirteen French prisoners who had fallen into their hands; and Chet Singh, instead of offering battle to the troops advancing from Lohra Sukrit, resolved to beat a retreat with all his followers to Bijaigarh. On reaching Mau near Bijaigarh after a difficult journey through the jungles he called a council of his chief supporters, and it was decided that the Raja, leaving his family in the fort, should fly with his valuables and treasure to the Deccan, handing over the defence of the fort to some of his officers. This plan was accordingly carried out; Bijaigarh was entrusted to Raghubar Dayal and Ahlad Misr, the treasure was loaded on elephants, camels, bullocks and coolies; and the Raja fled,

through Rewah and Bundelkhand, to Gwalior. He died there in 1810. Meanwhile the information of Chet Singh's flight reached the Governor-General at Chunar and a strong force was sent under Major Popham to take possession of Latifpur and then to reduce Bijaigarh. The Governor-General, after visiting Patita, returned to Ramnagar on September 28th, and after restoring confidence by the issue of proclamations of amnesty, formally installed Mahip Narayan Singh, the daughter's son of Balwant Singh, as successor to Chet Singh. Major Popham and his forces reached Latifpur without opposition and having garrisoned the place with two companies of sepoys under Captain Palmer, proceeded towards Bijaigarh, which he reached after a difficult and trying march. A survey of the height of the fort immediately dispelled all idea of capturing it by escalade. But the Raja of Agori, who had been expelled by Balwant Singh and was now seeking restoration to his ancestral domains, pointed out that the adjoining hill of Lowa Koh commanded the fort and was undefended. Accordingly a battery was at once thrown up on Lowa Koh, as also on another hill to the north of the fort. On the following day fire was opened from these batteries and resulted in the speedy silencing of the guns of the enemy, which were very ineffectively served. Negotiations for peace were now opened, but Major Popham replied that he would listen to no terms; and on their failure two hundred Dhangars of the garrison attacked the battery on the south, killed a number of men, but returned to the fort without injuring the battery or dismounting the guns. The battery was at once re-occupied and firing again commenced, when a chance shot happening to enter one of the Rani's apartments spread consternation in the Raja's household. The fort was then surrendered, the Rani being promised an allowance for her support, and was occupied by Major Popham. All the property found there was sold for the benefit of his troops.

Accession of Raja Mahip Narayan Singh and the settlement of the province.

A general settlement of the affairs of the Benares province was made by Warren Hastings. The revenue payable by the newly installed Raja, Mahip Narayan Singh, was raised to 40 lakhs and the criminal administration of the city of Benares, as well as the control of the mint, was withdrawn from the Raja's hands, while parganas Bhadohi and Kaswar Raja were acknowledged as the *jagir*

of the Raja, who also established his title to Kera Mangraur as a revenue-free grant on the basis of the *altamgha* granted to Balwant Singh by Alamgir II. The large *taluqdars* who had been expelled over twenty years before by Balwant Singh were restored to their estates. Gobind Singh, son of Bikramajit, Raja of Kantit, was summoned from his hiding place in Rewah and was granted a *malikana* or allowance of Rs. 37,500 per annum, which was subsequently exchanged for the *taluqa* of Bijaipur in free-hold. The Agori-Barhar family was reinstated at the same time, being restored to the *zamindari* of Agori-Barhar with a cash allowance of Rs. 8,001; while the claim of Mahip Narayan Singh to the Bijaigarh estate on the ground of an alleged purchase by Balwant Singh was disallowed by Warren Hastings, the Raja eventually gaining possession of his property. The Singrauli Raja who had never fallen to more than a nominal extent either under the Chandel or the Benares yoke was left in uncontrolled possession of his dominions, subject to a payment of Rs. 701 to the Agori Raja.

Subsequent history.

The history of the district after the accession of Raja Mahip Narayan is almost wholly concerned with fiscal matters and the settlement of the revenue, as already recorded in the preceding chapter. The year 1794 was important, as marking the great change in the system of administration whereby the Raja, was removed from the government of the province and left with a limited jurisdiction in those parganas which have been since known as the Family Domains. The direct control of the former was assumed by the British Government, subject to the payment of one lakh annually to the Raja from the surplus revenues of the province; while the Raja was confirmed in the administration of justice in civil suits referring to land and revenue matters, in the Family Domains, subject to the collector's advice and the orders of the Governor-General in Council. Mahip Narayan Singh was succeeded in 1795 by his son, Raja Udit Narayan Singh Bahadur, who unsuccessfully memorialized the Government in 1805, asking for the annulment of the agreement of 1794, but no change was effected in the administration till 1826, when Mr. W. W. Bird was appointed a special commissioner to enquire into the grievances which were alleged to be rife in the Family Domains. It appears that the agreement of 1794 had been violated in

several instances; and in consequence of Mr. Bird's report, submitted in 1827, Regulation VII of 1828 was passed, making detailed arrangements for the administration of the Domains. These remained in force till amended by Act XIV of 1881. Two years later, or in 1830, Mirzapur, which had until then been included in the district of Benares, was made into a separate revenue jurisdiction; but except for some disturbances in the extreme south of the district resulting from disputed possession of lands, the peace was not broken till the great rebellion of 1857.

The Mutiny.

The history of the Mutiny at Mirzapur is a short one and contains no stirring tales. The district, with the exception of the pargana of Bhadohi where the Rajputs had not forgotten their expulsion from their ancient dignities and possessions of a century before, contained in itself few elements of disaffection, and but little of the *personnel* for an armed revolt. And indeed, with the single exception noted above, it was found all through the subsequent events that the sympathies of the countryside were at the worst neutral and generally on the side of law and order. The city itself, with its large mercantile community, was too alarmed and too defenceless to be a cause of anxiety, and the chief difficulty was to preserve the district from the incursions of marauders from without. The administration was in the hands of Mr. St. George Tucker, who was magistrate and collector; and the other civil officers included Mr. Lean, the judge; Mr. W. Moore, the joint magistrate; Messrs. J. Simson and P. Walker, deputy magistrates, and Mr. Elliot, who joined the district after the commencement of the disturbances on first appointment. The district treasury contained, in May 1857, only two lakhs of rupees, and these were guarded by half the Firozpur Regiment of Sikhs.

The Mutiny of the 10th May at Meerut affected every station in Northern India, and Mirzapur was no exception to the rule. On the 19th May when the news of the outbreaks at that place and at Dehli was received, measures were at once taken by the magistrate for the preservation of order and the allaying of anxiety. The ferry at Bhatauli was immediately placed under a strong guard of police; but great uncertainty as to the course events would take prevailed, the slightest occurrence sufficed to cause alarm, and when, on May 21st firing was heard to the

eastward, the residents hurriedly retired to the public offices with the Sikhs; and, although on the discovery that the firing was only at a marriage procession the civilians returned to their houses, it was thought advisable to keep the Sikhs on the spot. On June 6th the news of the Benares outbreak came in, followed by similar tidings from Jaunpur, and great and renewed anxiety was the result. Nor did the arrival of a wing of the 47th Native Infantry, then on its way from Prome to Allahabad, on the next day at all tend to restore confidence. Now too neither road nor river were safe from armed plunderers; large bodies of armed men were reported at Manda on the Allahabad frontier; and the turbulent Rajputs of Akorhi, a village near Bindhachal, whose evil reputation survived for many years, were said to be meditating a descent upon the city. Colonel Pott, the commander of the 47th Regiment, felt no prejudice in favour of the loyalty of his own men and agreeing with Mr. Tucker as to the possibility of an outbreak among them, decided to give furlough to the majority of them, only retaining a certain number whom he believed he could trust. On June 8th the Sikhs were called away to Allahabad in such haste that, although advantage was taken of their departure to send away Rs. 60,000 of the treasure, they were unable to take with them their spare arms or to remove or destroy the large quantity of ammunition in their magazine. The latter, however, was at once taken possession of by Colonel Pott, who threw into the river all the spare cartridges and the nipples of the spare muskets, thus rendering the weapons useless; and the same day the opportunity was taken to despatch the remainder of the treasure to Benares by steamer.

On June 9th the rumours of an attack on the station from Manda became so persistent and alarming that all the residents at Mirzapur fled for refuge to the fort of Chunar, with the exception of Mr. Tucker and one or two others. The following day a small party of sepoys belonging to the 50th Native Infantry at Nagod arrived, bringing with them some prisoners; and Mr. Tucker, believing from the demeanour of the men that they could be employed in useful work, marched out with them and chastised some marauders who had plundered some property belonging to the East Indian railway, not five miles away from the court-house,

Twenty-seven of the ring-leaders were captured and punished. An entrenchment was shortly afterwards commenced round the smaller of two large houses on the river bank, next to the present post-office, and the larger was prepared for the reception of a detachment of European troops belonging to the 1st Madras Fusiliers who were expected. These arrived on the 13th; and it was then proposed to disarm the men of the 47th Native Infantry. Colonel Pott, however, did not think this necessary, and a party of his men, with some of the Fusiliers, attacked and destroyed the large village of Gaura, situated on the right bank of the river near the Allahabad frontier. The inhabitants of this place had made themselves specially obnoxious by a series of daring dacoities both on lands and water, and prepared for resistance; but finding themselve-attacked both in front and rear, they fled. Several of the ring, leaders were captured. On the 22nd of the same month Mr. Walker, with the Nagod sepoys and a number of *sowars* and *chaprasis* made a successful night attack upon a band of dacoits, whose headquarters were at Ramnagar Sikri, about eight miles from the civil station, another village which long possessed an evil notoriety for turbulence. These expeditions reduced to order the whole country on the right bank of the river up to the base of the first range of hills.

Bhadohi and the murder of Mr. Moore.

On the left bank, the pargana of Bhadohi presented a far more difficult task. Here, early in June, the head of the Monas clan of Rajputs, Adwant Singh, who hoped to find in the disorders around, him an opportunity of restoring the ancient supremacy of his family, assumed the title of Raja, appointed two *diwans* or deputies raised a force of his clansmen, imposed and collected taxes, supplemented his income by plundering his neighbours, and soon grew strong enough to close the grand trunk road. A force under Lieutenant Palliser was called upon from similar but less urgent work in Benares, and with a European levy under Mr. Chapman, was sent to suppress this new revolt. Shortly after the arrival of this force at Gopiganj, Munshi Durshan Lal, the agent of the Raja of Benares in Bhadohi, succeeded in capturing the rebel chief and his *diwan*, and delivered them up to the authorities. They were at once tried by court-martial and hanged. Their people vowed vengeance. Adwant Singh's widow offered a reward of Rs. 300

for the head of Mr. Moore, then joint magistrate of Mirzapur and deputy superintendent of the Family Domains, who, they argued, must be responsible for the execution. The opportunity was not long to seek. On July 4th Mr. Moore made a raid from Gopiganj and arrested a number of suspected persons, whom he conveyed to the indigo factory at Pali. Jhurai Singh, a relative of the *soi-disant* Raja, at once surrounded the factory with a number of men. Moore defended himself vigorously, and, believing that a counter attack would have its effect, sallied forth accompanied by the two managers of the factory and some of his men, and charged the besiegers. The latter, however, were too numerous for him, and after a desperate fight, Moore and the two managers were captured and immediately put to death. The same day a party of the 64th Regiment hurried out to the rescue from Gopiganj, but only succeeded in recovering the bodies, and when it had been joined the following day by Mr. Tucker and some of the 47th Native Infantry, the rebels were pursued. The real murderers, however, escaped both Mr. Tucker and Mr. Chapman, who had gone with a body of European troops to search them out. The district now remained quiet for about a month, during the course of which the only facts to be recorded are the safe arrival of the Banda and Fatehpur fugitives, headed by Mr. F. O. Mayne, from Nagod, the advent of a hundred European troops from the east, and the return of the muskets of the 47th Native Infantry into store.

The Dinapur mutineers.

On August 3rd the heroic garrison at Arrah was relieved by Vincent Eyre and the Dinapur mutineers of the 7th, 8th and 40th regiments of Native Infantry after their rough handling began to march westwards. Their first objective was Benares; but finding that their intention of attacking that city had been forestalled and narrowly escaping a strong force sent to oppose their passage at Naubatpur, they poured into the Mirzapur district, which on its eastern side adjoins Shahabad, of which Arrah is the capital town. Unopposed by the Raja's retainers they passed through the defiles of Chakia and, on August 4th, plundered the bazar of Ahraura. Here feeling themselves tolerably safe they leisurely pursued their way to Sukrit, Robertsganj and Shahganj and looted those places; and then turned north with the intention of attacking Mirzapur. Meanwhile three hundred men

of H. M. 5th Regiment had been thrown into the city to defend it; and this body of men, accompanied by most of the district officers and some volunteers, marched out to Kutwa to meet them. On the 20th of August the mutineers were encountered at Amoi, some 17 miles from Mirzapur, and after the first fire, broke and fled. It was not possible at the time to pursue them and the rebels after plundering all the villages on the way without molestation, passed five days latter into the district of Allahabad. This was the only occasion during the Mutiny on which the city of Mirzapur was directly threatened.

Raids of the Ramgarh mutineers and of Kunwar Singh.

The next incursion took place in the extreme south of the district. On August 14th a small party of mutineers of the Ramgarh battalion from Hazaribagh in Chutia Nagpur entered Mirzapur, but timely notice of their approach enabled the district authorities to destroy all the boats on the Son, which, being then in flood, presented an impassable barrier. The mutineers then turned south through Singrauli. The passage of the Rihand they effected with the aid of the Raja of Singrauli whom they induced or coerced into assisting them. They thus reached Kota, where they committed all the injury in their power to the buildings and workings of the coal mine. They passed on with a similar intention to those in Rewah, but were frustrated in their designs by a rising of the people round about. A more serious in-road was that of the redoubtable Kunwar or Kuar Singh who arrived with his force, by way of Pannuganj, on the 24th of August, and encamped at Ramgarh. He found some assistance and compelled more from the Chandels of Bijaigarh, and passed on through Robertsganj, where he burnt all that was inflammable in the tahsil buildings, to Shahganj and Ghorawal, reaching the last named place on the 29th. Thence he turned southward and, crossing the Belan at Kusehra, endeavoured to enter Rewah. He was however compelled by the hostility of the people to return and retreated along the line of the Deccan road to Baraundha, where he was on September 6th. Thence he hurried westwards and passed into the Allahabad district.

State of the district in the north.

Meanwhile Lieutenant Buckley, who was holding Gopiganj, evacuated the place when the Dinapur mutineers entered the district, but returned after a single night's absence: and early in

September when Kunwar Singh was marching down the Deccan road, the portions of Allahabad and Mirzapur lying on the left bank of the Ganges were entrusted to the charge of Mr. F. O. Mayne. The Dinapur mutineers, after leaving Mirzapur, threatened Nagod and, on their nearer approach, Major Hampton destroyed the magazine and sent the ladies away on September 15th to Rewah. The next day, the 50th Native Infantry who were stationed at Nagod mutinied, but without violence, 240 of the men electing to escort their officers into Rewah. Here the position of the party was for some time critical, powerful enemies threatening them on every side; but as none of the rebel forces advanced against them, a small party of volunteers from Mirzapur went out along the Deccan road to meet them and escorted them into that place in safety on September 22nd. Two days later a wing of the 17th Madras Native Infantry reached Mirzapur and when on the 28th the remnant of the Nagod regiment came in, the sepoys were at once ferried across the river, disarmed and sent on leave. The district now began to settle down rapidly. October passed tranquilly. A rumoured advance of troops from Mirzapur drove some mutineers, who had crossed the Son, in hasty flight southwards; and an attack by Mr. Elliott, with some Sikhs and the Benares police levy, on two notorious villages in the north-west of the district was completely successful. Some restless spirits in Rewah, who threatened the district, were overawed by the movement of troops from Mirzapur; and on October 27th the Madras sepoys were recalled. Still, comparatively peaceful as the state of affairs was, it was thought more prudent to remove the guns and stores from the entrenchment to Chunar.

Events in the south.

Disturbances were still occurring in the south. The roving bands of rebels received neither aid nor opposition from the people; but, though they were not guilty of wanton destruction to private property, they plundered all schools and places belonging to the Government. On December 16th a *thanadar* and *jamadar* were murdered at Marwar, a village on the borders of Rewah, and, a heavy fine was inflicted on the village. Trouble next arose in Bijaigarh. Here, the Raja, the head of the younger branch of the Agori-Barhar Chandels, whose history has already been related, had died, leaving a widow and an only daughter.

The latter was betrothed to a brother of the Raja of Kantit and when, in October 1857, a portion of the property had been transferred to this child, the marriage was completed. Lachhman Singh, the nearest male collateral heir of the deceased Raja, who had unsuccessfully contested first the succession to the *gaddi* and then the division of the property, looked with no favour on the interference of his new relative in the pargana. He and the other Chandel malcontents had been in communication with the mutineers at Shahabad, ever since the incursion of Kunwar Singh. He now called the Shahabad men to his aid, proclaimed himself Raja and commenced extorting revenue. The tahsildar of Robertsganj, who was sent out at the commencement of the outbreak to summon him to Mirzapur, was obliged to fly for his life, and for a couple of months the whole pargana was thrown into confusion. In January 1858, however, Mr. Tucker and others of the civil officers, with a small force, moved out against them. The rebels at once retired to the dense jungles round the stronghold of Rohtasgarh. Mr. Tucker made a long night march and, at dawn on January 9th, attacked them in their retreat with complete success. Several were killed; several more were captured and taken to Benares, where they were hanged; considerable booty was recovered; and the remainder of the band was driven across the Son. The leaders, however, escaped into Rewah and in February, with the help of a Raja of their own caste, made an incursion into the territory of their successful rival. Again Mr. Tucker moved out against them, and succeeded in finally driving them out of the district. He then proceeded to Gaharwargaon, the residence of the Raja of Singrauli, to settle matters. But that chieftain found it prudent to remain away in Rewah, whence he sent profuse professions of loyalty. These were rather belied by the persistent rumours of warlike preparations on his part and of intercourse with rebels of Bijaigarh; but Mr. Tucker, apprehending no further trouble in this quarter, returned to Mirzapur. He soon afterwards left the district for a commissionership in Oudh; Mr. Mayne also returned to take up his post of district officer at Banda; and the 47th Native Infantry were sent to China, leaving behind the arms which had never been issued to them by the Government. The only subsequent event of importance was

an incursion into Bhadohi by Jhurai Singh, which was promptly suppressed. But it was some time before the southern portion of the district was cleared of rebels; and as late as March 1859 the country was so infested with prowling bands of insurgents that the magistrate, who visited the tract, was, in his own words, "compelled to beat a hasty retreat."

Mutiny rewards.

The list of those who rendered conspicuous and loyal service to the Government during the Mutiny at Mirzapur is not a long one. Raja Iswari Prasad Narayan Singh of Benares was as zealous in the cause of order in this district as in Benares, Mahant Jai Ram Gir, who supplied money, carts and guns when needed, and Babu Beni Bahadur Singh of Kantit, who accompanied the expedition against the rebels of Bijaigarh, were rewarded with *khilats* of Rs. 2,000 each. Of the other recipients of rewards the most notable were Muhammad Mirza Jan, *kotwal* of Mirzapur, who had maintained admirable order in the city throughout the period of disturbances, and Beni Shankar, tahsildar, whose services were similar. Besides these, several old troopers and sepoys who had remained conspicuously loyal were suitably rewarded with promotion or increases of pension.

Conclusion.

The close of the Mutiny is also the close of the district history; not since it was quelled has the peace been disturbed. The succeeding years have brought with them no events but the ordinary incidents of administration, the successive changes of officers, and the material and the social progress in which Mirzapur, in common with the whole province, has shared.

Gazetteer of Mirzapur.

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DIRECTORY.

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AGORI, *Pargana* AGORI, *Tahsil* ROBERTSGANJ.

Agori is the capital of the pargana of the same name and lies in 24° 41′ N. and 82° 58′ E. It is situated near the confluence of the Rihand and the Son rivers, at a distance of 62 miles from Mirzapur and 14 miles from the tahsil headquarters at Robertsganj. The population of the place has increased in recent years. In 1881 it was returned at 246 persons, in 1891 at 249, and at the last enumeration in 1901 at 340, the prevailing Hindu caste being that of Bhuinhars.

Tradition speaks of an ancient city having once existed here, as large as Benares and extending from the present site along the bank of the Son as far as Sobhanath, not far from Chopan. The tradition is supported by the existence of extensive ruins; but the chief points of interest now remaining are the fort and the temples at Sobhanath. The fort is picturesquely situated on a hill on the right bank of the river. The winding path that leads up to it passes through a number of ruined buildings, apparently the stables and servants' quarters. At the top is a door in the Saracenic style of architecture which forms the entrance to the fort. On each side of this are images of the family gods, on the right Durga Devi, to whom goats are offered; on the left, a small male figure bending over and embracing a female, both being known as *Birtiya* and worshipped with a sacrifice of pigs. Next is an image of Hanuman, and inside four female figures, known collectively as *Bhagavati* and believed to be akin to the Vindhyasini Devi of Bindhachal. Inside the gateway to the right is a substantial stone masonry house. At the entrance of this there is a stone doorway, with elaborate tracery, bearing a Persian inscription:—"*Sarkar Chunar men, amal pargana Agori, mahal Madho Singh. Har ki mahal bikanad, talaf zan-o-dukhtar ba'an bashad. San hijri* 1026"; that is "during the Chunar government, a public work of pargana Agori, the house of Madho Singh: whoever pulls down this house may he be divorced from his wife and separated from his daughter."

The date corresponds to 1734 A.D.; and the builder appears from the inscription to have been Madho Singh who was the brother of Raja Madan Sah. Below the central enclosure is a building with five arches known as the *kachahri* or *silahkhana;* and from the top of this there is a beautiful view up the valley of the Son. With the exception of the building ascribed to Madho Singh, the existing remains are attributed to the period between 1741 and 1781 A.D. Tradition however makes the fort the seat of the Baland Rajas. These were of the Kharwar caste and are said to have been expelled at the commencement of the 13th century by Chandels from Mahoba. The Chandels were however subsequently defeated by the grandson of the Baland Raja Ghatam, only to be restored in the time of Oran Deo with the aid of the Gaharwar Raja of Bijaipur. The descendants of Oran Deo remained uninterruptedly in possession of the fort till the ejection of Raja Shimbhu Sah by Balwant Singh. When Raja Chet Singh was expelled by the British, Babu Son Singh was restored to the raj of Agori by Warren Hastings, and the fort came once more into the possession of the Chandels. It has, however, been long deserted by the Agori-Barhar Rajas on the ground that it is haunted, the family having taken up its residence at Rajpur, north of the Kaimur hills, a less healthy and picturesque, but more accessible locality. The fort is rapidly falling into decay. The wooden supports of the buildings are everywhere giving way, and the interior is a mass of jungle.

The temples at Sobhanath are in charge of Bharti Gosains. In front of the western temple of Mahadeo there is a curious carved stone mounted on a platform, with a figure riding on a horse and holding a spear in his hand; above are the images of the sun and moon with an open hand between them. The temple is now disused. Further east is a pillar of stone, about six feet high, on one side of which there is a figure striking at a flower, and next to it a male and female figure now identified with the *dih* or local village godling. Near this is another disused temple containing *lings* and *yonis.* On the platform to the left of the door is an image called *Kiratmukh,* and inside are images of Vishnu, Ganesh, Nandia and Lachmanji. Close to the river is another temple containing two *nandis* or bulls on the platform; to the left another *Kiratmukh,* and inside images of Devi, Ganesha, and the *Dasantri* or

ten deities joined in one. To reach the image of Sobhanath himself it is necessary to descend into an underground chamber; inside this are images of Vishnu, Mahabir and Bhagavati. Besides those already described there is a large number of deserted and ruined shrines about the place. None of the existing buildings present an appearance of extreme antiquity, but many of them seem to be made up of old materials ; and it appears that Sobhanath was one of the oldest aboriginal shrines, which was annexed by Brahmanism.

AGORI *Pargana, Tahsil* ROBERTSGANJ.

The pargana of Agori consists of two *taluqas*, Agori and Kon. It is bounded on the north by the Kaimur range as far as the point opposite the junction of the Son and Kanhar rivers and thence eastwards by the Son; on the east by pargana Nagar-Untari of the Palamau district of Bengal ; on the south by pargana Singrauli, and on the west by Bardi and Shahpur-Singrauli of the Rewah state. The pargana has never been cadastrally surveyed but the total area by the topographical survey is returned as 456,627 acres or 713·4 square miles. Of this, 413,120 acres are barren waste, while the cultivated area averages some 33,000 acres, the remainder, or 10,507 acres, being culturable waste out of cultivation.

The country is rugged and mountainous, the hills being of sandstone formation and numerous parallel ridges running east and west. Between these ridges lie basins of varying extent ; but these are never extensive and the villages are mere settlements on patches of ungenerous but culturable soil, enclosed by dry rocky hills. In the Son valley, on either side of the river, the soil is better and here the villages have a more prosperous appearance but the land is inferior to that of parganas Barhar and Bijaigarh and in no sense can it be called fertile. A portion of the pargana, opposite the village of Agori, lies on the north of the Son, and the only stream in it worthy of mention is the Gaghar. To the south of the river the pargana is traversed from south to north by two considerable streams, the Rihand and the Kanhar; and besides these there are two tributaries, the Bijal and Pandu. The soils of the culturable villages may be divided into *matiyar*

or clay; *dumat* or loam; *balua* or sandy soil; and *patharha* or stony soil, which is little better than coarse gravel. To these may be added *kewal*, a rich black loam, generally found in low-lying places, when it is the detritus of the soil washed down from the neighbouring heights: it is, however, scarce in Agori. The *kharif* is the principal harvest, the chief crops grown being rice, *kodon*, *sanwan*, *urd* and *til*; while a little maize is planted in the highly manured fields that surround the sites. In the *rabi*, wheat, barley, gram, peas and linseed are all sown. Irrigation is very little practised owing to the scarcity of water and the large cost of constructing wells; but there is a large number of embankments and a little water is obtained from tanks. Less than a hundred acres, however, are normally watered. A large portion of the pargana is covered with jungle of a somewhat stunted type, and though cultivators are permitted to take wood free for building houses, making agricultural implements, and similar purposes, others who cut wood pay an axe tax, termed *tangai*, at a rate of between four and eight annas a year; while Agarias and *khair* workers pay a similar tax, called *chulhai*. Of the manufacture of iron and *khair* some account has already been given in Chapter II.

There are 120 villages in Agori, divided into 124 *mahals*, 68 of the latter being held in single *zamindari* and 56 in perfect *pattidari*. The pargana is held free of revenue by Rani Bed Saran Singh of Agori-Barhar, the only payments to the Government being Rs. 15 on account of water advantage and Rs. 89-6-0 for cesses. The Rani also possesses proprietary rights in the *zamindari mahals*; and in order to understand how the pargana came to be so held it is necessary to trace its history. About the year 1744 A.D. Raja Shimbhu Sah, Chandel, was dispossessed of his domains by Raja Balwant Singh. During the insurrection of Chet Singh, Adil Shah, grandson of Shimbhu Sah, attended Warren Hastings and ingratiated himself with the Governor-General by several acts of service. Accordingly on October 9th, 1871, Warren Hastings granted him a *sanad*, restoring him to the *zamindari* of Agori-Barhar. The country was in an extremely disturbed condition at the time and there was little prospect of the Raja being able to recover possession of his domains; so, only seven days later, Warren Hastings gave Adil Shah another *sanad*, granting him a

cash allowance of Rs. 8,001 per annum so long as he should remain out of possession of his estates. The allowance took the form of an assignment of the revenue of all the *mahals* in Agori, Kon and Singrauli and of 32 other *mahals*. The grant was called an *altamgha*, and no definite period during which the arrangements set forth in it were to remain in force is mentioned in the *sanad*, but it is clear from the tenor of a letter written by Warren Hastings at the time that the grant was intended to be a temporary one. Another *sanad* couched in the same terms was subsequently issued on March 12th, 1782. Subsequently Adil Shah entered on his ancestral domains, supported by British troops, who drove out Chet Singh's followers, and found no opposition to the attainment of the entire possession of Agori and Barhar. As soon as he had obtained possession of the *zamindari*, Adil Shah really forfeited his claim to the assigned villages, the revenue of which was Rs. 8,001; and as possession had been obtained at the time of the general settlement in 1788-89 A.D., the Governor-General in Council ordered the assignment to be resumed. Meanwhile, however, Raja Adil Shah, in order to meet the Government demand upon him as proprietor, had mortgaged the assigned villages to Sheo Lal Dube of Jaunpur, the mortgage-deed being countersigned by Mr. P. Treves, acting resident at Benares, who supposed the assignment to have been a permanent grant. As by this act the Government appeared to have guaranteed the discharge of the loan, Mr. Duncan solicited and obtained permission to defer the resumption of the assignment until the debt to Sheo Lal Dube had been liquidated. He set aside *taluqa* Kon and 28 villages in pargana Barhar as the Raja's *jagir*, the revenue demand on these villages being estimated to be Rs. 4,001. The Raja was allowed to manage them, appropriating a *malikana* allowance of 10 per cent. on the collections, and the balance was intended to be regularly paid to Sheo Lal Dube until the final liquidation of the debt. It was distinctly understood at the same time that the revenue should revert to the Government as soon as the debt had been discharged. When Adil Shah died in 1794 A.D., Mr. Duncan proceeded to sequester these villages with a view to realizing certain balances of Government revenue and also of liquidating the remainder of Sheo Lal's debts; but subsequently they were allowed to remain in the possession of the new Raja

Ran Bahadur Sah. In 1803 A.D. the latter became involved in monetary difficulties and represented his cause to Mr. W. A. Brooke, the Governor-General's agent. He alleged that he and his family had been hardly dealt with by the resumption of half the grant given by Mr. Hastings and affirmed that the chief source of his embarrassment lay in the over-assessment of his parganas. Mr. Barton, then collector of the district, was accordingly called on for a report. This officer displayed great zeal on the Raja's behalf and seconded his representations by assertions which were not entirely correct. He quoted Mr. Duncan to show that the parganas had been over-assessed, without noting that Mr. Duncan had subsequently much reduced the demand, and went so far as to speak of the assignment of Kon and the 28 Barhar villages as an old and permanent grant, finally maintaining that the Raja was entitled to a net profit of Rs. 8,001 per annum from the British Government or to a certain number of villages assessed to that amount. Mr. Barton's proposals met with approval at Calcutta, and orders were issued to him to revise the assessment of Agori-Barhar in such a way as to give the Raja a net profit of Rs. 8,001 per annum or to allot him, in lieu thereof, a certain number of villages assessed to that amount. Accordingly the revision of certain revenue-paying villages took place, and, in addition to the villages assigned by Mr. Duncan, certain others assessed to a sum of Rs. 4,000 were made over to the Raja. This arrangement brought *taluqas* Agori and Singrauli into the Raja's possession, with the result that he became in 1804 both *zamindar* and *jagirdar*, or assignee of the Government demand, in *taluqas* Kon and Agori, Singrauli and 28 villages in Barhar. Of the early settlements of Agori carried out by Messrs. Taylor and Lindsay, little need be said. Mr. Taylor's settlements were made with the Raja in the bulk of both *taluqas* as the village occupants would not come forward to engage; while those of Mr. Lindsay were detailed village settlements. Owing to continuous disputes between the Raja and his tenants, however, Mr. W. Roberts was appointed by the Government in 1846 to be settlement officer under Regulation IX of 1825 to determine the rights of the under-proprietors in the *malikana mahals* of Agori-Barhar. Mr. Roberts took as his standard the assessment made in 1838; and as a result of his proceedings, out of 109 villages in

Agori and *taluqa* Kon, 61 were settled with the Raja as proprietor, 31 with *muqaddams* in perpetuity, 12 with *mukarraridars* for 20 years, four were declared rent-free, and one was settled in *zamindari* tenure with the occupants whose possession dated from a period antecedent to the expulsion of the Chandels by the Raja of Benares. The persons defined by Mr. Roberts as *muqaddams* were the real old proprietors of the villages, having been in possession before the *taluqas* were made permanently over to the Raja, while the *mukarraridars* were those who had reclaimed the villages from waste and had thus acquired a proprietary interest. The former paid 10 per cent. on the revenue demand and the latter 15 per cent. to the Raja as *malikana*. Mr. Roberts' proceedings were not confirmed finally until 1880, after some questions that had arisen had been settled by Mr. Pollock in 1872. Mr. Roberts's assessments were then approved; and also, on the recommendations of the Board of Revenue, his demands in ten out of twelve *mukarrari* villages were confirmed in perpetuity, the term in the other two, Kurhul and Harra, which were not fully cultivated, being fixed at 20 years only.

The population of Agori in 1881 numbered 32,713 souls, and this rose in 1891 to 35,045. At the last enumeration in 1901 there were 36,487 inhabitants in the pargana, of whom 18,257 were females. Classified according to religions, there were 35,212 Hindus, 1,343 Musalmans and 132 persons of other religions. The numerically strongest castes are Kharwars, Ahirs, Brahmans, Bhuinhars, Bhuiyas, Kols, Cheros, Chamars, Manjhis and Kewats. There are no towns in the pargana and its capital is an insignificant village. The four largest villages are Jungel, 2,223 inhabitants, mostly Bhuinhars; Panari, 2,063, chiefly Kharwars and Manjhis; Billi Banri, 1,073, largely Manjhis; and Kon, 1,063. The last was at one time administered under Act XX of 1856, but the provisions of the Act have now been withdrawn. The only roads in the pargana are of the sixth class and are little more than bridle tracks, along which traffic is conveyed from Singrauli and Sarguja on pack-animals. These lead from Chopan to Singrauli and the Sarguja frontier; from Argarh past Kon to Dudhi; and from Kota-Newari past Jungel to Singrauli. The passage of the Son is effected by means of several ferries, of which a list will be found

in the appendix. There too are stated the schools, post-offices, markets, and fairs of the pargana.

The pargana forms a portion of the Robertsganj tahsil lying south of the Kaimurs and is thus a part of the district which is scheduled under Act XIV of 1874. Only those enactments which have been specially extended to it are in force in it; and it does not form a separate subdivision for either criminal or revenue purposes. In police matters the jurisdiction is divided between the circles of Chopan and Kon.

AHRAURA, *Pargana* AHRAURA, *Tahsil* CHUNAR.

The town of Ahraura lies in latitude 25° 1′ N. and longitude 83° 3′ E.; it is distant 32 miles from Mirzapur *via* Chunar and 12 miles south-east of Chunar. It is connected with Chunar by a second class unmetalled road, and with Narayanpur, where the Ahraura Road railway station on the East Indian railway is situated, by a metalled road. An unmetalled road leads south to Robertsganj. The town is situated on the border of the rocky country that extends for many miles to the south. Flat-topped, isolated hills of grey sandstone, with a horizontal stratification, dot the landscape and make the locality singularly picturesque. There is a branch of the Garai river about a mile east of the town, and a branch of the Kalkalia *nala* about two miles to the west. The town consists of two long streets, one of which is metalled and the other, parallel to it, is paved with stone. There are several spacious market-places, called *golas*, a vernacular secondary school, a mission school which is aided by the district board, a dispensary, a *sarai* and a police station; but besides these there are no other buildings of note. The chief local industry is sugar-making, and the lacquered wooden articles known throughout India as "Benares toys" are also manufactured here. Formerly the weaving of *tasar* silk was carried on to a considerable extent; but the industry is now almost extinct, though *tasar* thread is still spun from the cocoons which are brought here in large numbers from the south. Tanks, temples, mango groves and other indications of wealth and prosperity are to be found scattered round about the town. There is a combined post and telegraph office at Ahraura. Ahraura was formerly a very important

entrepôt of trade, being the most southerly limit of cart traffic on the road between the railway, the south of the district and the state of Sarguja. The present trade is of considerable dimensions but is entirely a transit one. The chief articles of traffic are grain, lac, fibres, gums and other jungle produce; these are brought to Ahraura on pack-bullocks, and are thence conveyed to Ahraura Road railway station.

Ahraura has been administered under Act XX of 1856 since the year 1865. The income averages some Rs. 4,000 annually and is derived from the usual tax, assessed under the Act. It is expended in the maintenance of extra police for the watch and ward of the town, in the entertainment of a small conservancy staff, and simple works of improvement within the town. The population has fluctuated of late years but is considerably higher than it was in 1872. In that year the inhabitants numbered 9,019: the number rose to 11,332 in 1881, and to 11,631 in 1891. At the last enumeration in 1901 there were 11,328 persons in the town, of whom 5,684 were females. Classified according to religion there were 9,953 Hindus, 1,365 Musalmans and 10 persons of other religions.

One and a half miles to the south of Ahraura lies the village of Belkhara; in a field near it there is a stone pillar, 11 feet 5 inches long and 15 inches in diameter, on which are inscribed two inscriptions and some rude carvings. One of the inscriptions is nearly illegible, but the other was deciphered by General Cunningham.* The inscription is dated *Sambat* 1253 or 1196 A.D. and is a record of Lakhana Deva, the last king of Kanauj. It was about this date that Muhammad Bakhtiar Khilji received the districts of Bhagwat and Bhuili in feof, together with Patila and Kuntila, all in the neighbourhood of Chunar. But the inscription completely ignores the Muhammadan conquest and speaks of the Hindu kingdom of Kanauj as if it were still in existence. At Rasulpur, close to Ahraura, is the tomb of a Muhammadan martyr called Saiyid Ashraf Ali. His bones are said to have been discovered by a *zamindar's* servant in 1846, and were for a long time a regular object of pilgrimage from the surrounding districts. The shrine however has now lost much of its sanctity.†

* Cunningham; *A. R.*, vol. XI, p. 128.

† Major Stewart; *Rambles in the Mirzapur District*, p. 19.

Besides these remains, to the north of the town there is a fine flat-topped hill called the Magan-Diwana, which is said to have once been the site of an aboriginal fort.

AHRAURA *Pargana, Tahsil* CHUNAR.

The pargana of Ahraura is the south-eastern pargana of the Chunar tahsil, and is bounded on the north by pargana Bhuili, on the west by pargana Bhagwat, on the east by pargana Kera-Mangraur in the Family Domains, and on the south and south-west by pargana Barhar. It is a long narrow subdivision with a length of some eighteen miles, the breadth being but four. Half the pargana lies about the Vindhyan plateau, the range of hills roughly dividing it into two equal portions with very different characteristics. To the south the soil overlies a substratum of rock and is very thin and precarious. There is a considerable amount of scrub jungle and only the poorer crops can be grown, even these, unless the land is allowed to lie fallow for at least one year in three, failing to flourish. A steep descent from the rocky upland, consisting of jungle-clad hills, leads to the alluvial plain below. The level is here diversified by a few outliers of rock, but the country is in general similar to that of the parganas in the Gangetic valley; irrigation is practised and the soil supports good rice crops and *rabi* harvests. Most of the isolated hills for some distance beyond Ahraura are bare of jungle but abound in fantastic rocks; and between these hills are some picturesque green valleys dotted over with villages and thick mango groves which afford a pleasing and cheerful prospect to the eye. According to the district returns, the total area of the pargana for the five years ending in 1907 was 47,232 acres or 73·8 square miles. Of this 12,739 acres or 26·97 per cent were classed as barren, the area of waste unfit for cultivation being 10,771 acres or nearly nine-tenths of the whole. The culturable area covered 22,054 acres or an additional 46·69 per cent, 14,786 acres or about two-thirds being waste land fit for but out of cultivation. The average area under the plough during the same period was but 12,439 acres or 26·34 per cent. of the whole, a smaller proportion than that found in any other pargana except Saktesgarh. Irrigation is practised in the pargana to a considerable extent, 5,211 acres or 41·89 per cent. of

the cultivated area being on an average watered artificially. Half this area is served by wells and lies almost entirely in the lowland, while nearly the whole of the remainder derives its supply from tanks. The *kharif* is the principal harvest, covering on an average 8,165 acres as against 6,775 acres sown in the *rabi*, while 2,549 acres or 20·49 per cent. of the cultivation are twice cropped within the year. The chief crops grown in the autumn are rice, which occupies 3,558 acres or 43·58 per cent. of the harvest, *juar* and *bajra*, either alone or intermixed with *arhar*, maize, *til* and small pulses. Barley alone or in combination with gram covers 1,881 acres or 27·77 per cent. of the area sown in the spring, but wheat, either alone or intermixed with gram or barley, occupies 1,840 acres, and the rest of the area is devoted to linseed, *kirao*, peas and gram. Opium is also grown to a small extent, the average area sown being 381 acres.

The cultivating body is made up of a large number of castes, among whom the most prominent are Kurmis, Koeris, Brahmans, Rajputs, Chamars, Kols and Ahirs, and the standard of cultivation, especially in the lowland, is generally high. In 1907-08, 9·48 per cent. of the land was included in proprietary holdings, either as *sir* or *khudkasht*, 10·87 per cent. was held by tenants at fixed rates, 27·93 per cent. by ex-proprietary and occupancy tenants, and 51·13 per cent. by tenants-at-will; the rest, which only amounts to 88 acres, was rent-free. A little over 20 per cent. of the area included in holdings is sublet, the proportion being on the whole a small one. Only 93 acres are grain-rented, being poor land on the Vindhyan plateau where the produce is precarious. The average cash rental ranges at the present time from Rs. 7-5-10 per acre for *shikmi* or sub-tenants to Rs. 3-5-1 per acre for tenants at fixed rates and Rs. 3-6-5 for occupancy tenants. Tenants-at-will pay only Rs. 3-0-1 per acre, but, as is usually the case in permanently settled districts, they generally hold the worst land, all that of a superior quality having been long ago appropriated either for *sir* or by the old statutory tenants. There are 80 villages in the pargana and these are divided into 108 *mahals*. Of the latter, 46 are owned by single proprietors, 50 are held in joint *zamindari* and 12 in imperfect *pattidari* tenure. Of the various proprietary castes Brahmans, Rajputs and Kurmis

are the most important, and some of the land is also owned by Muhammadans. The largest proprietors are Lachhmi Narayan and Shambhu Nath Chaudharis and Chaudhari Ganesh Prasad, of Adhwar; the two former own four villages with a demand of Rs. 1,193 and the last three villages assessed at Rs. 1,133.

The population of Ahraura in 1881 numbered 21,360 persons, and this rose to 22,827 in 1891. At the last census the total number of inhabitants reverted practically to the figure of 1881, for there were 21,336 persons in the pargana, of whom 10,648 were females. Classified according to religion, the Hindus numbered 19,493, the Muhammadans 1,833, and persons of other religions ten. The only town in the pargana is Ahraura, from which the name is derived. This is an important trade centre which has been separately described; but there is no other place with a population even closely approaching one thousand. The pargana is traversed by the important trade-route which runs from Ahraura Road station on the East Indian Railway southwards to Chopan and Sarguja. This is metalled as far as Ahraura and from there onwards to Chopan is a second class unmetalled road. It surmounts the Vindhyan plateau by the Sukrit pass, at the foot of which lies the town of Ahraura. Owing to its position on this great thoroughfare the town of Ahraura early developed into a large and flourishing market town. It is still an important trade centre, but the traffic is for the most part a transit one in agricultural produce, lac, gum, honey and similar jungle products. The only other roads in the pargana are those which lead off from Ahraura to Chunar on the west and Chakia on the east.

Ahraura is said to have been originally inhabited by Kols, who dwelt in the jungles and subsisted on the proceeds of the chase. But in the *Ain-i-Akbari* the pargana is called Ahirwara and is said to have been so called after the Ahirs who were the original *zamindars*. Ahirs are still numerous in the neighbourhood of Sukrit and it appears probable that they were the people who were overcome by Malik Farrukh, though Kols no doubt abounded in the hilly portions of the pargana to the south. How or when Malik Farrukh came to the pargana is not known; but he is said to have advanced money to the *zamindars* and, when they became involved, to have usurped their proprietary rights.

Malik Farrukh built the forts at Ahraura and Latifpur for the protection of his treasure, and died in 1752, after a life spent in continual hostility with the resident population. He was famed for his riches; but as the pargana is said to have at this time largely consisted of jungle, these riches could not have been derived from the produce of the soil and must have been accumulated from the proceeds of the traffic which passed through his domains from the Deccan to the Ganges. Malik Farrukh left two sons, Malik Ahmad and Malik Ahsan; and his death was used as the occasion for an attack by Balwant Singh who had long coveted the fortress of Latif pur. Malik Ahmad and Malik Ahsan shared the *zamindari* between them, the former living at Ahraura and the latter at Latifpur. In 1753-54 an assault on Ahraura by Balwant Singh resulted in the capture of the fort after six hours' fighting, Malik Ahmad losing his life in the attempt to escape to Latifpur; whereupon Malik Ahsan evacuated Latifpur and fled to Zamania. The pargana thus fell into the hands of Balwant Singh and the fort of Latifpur was occupied by his troops. During Balwant Singh's time the jungles of Ahraura are said to have been the most extensive in the whole country and to have been artificially reared and kept up as a surrounding covert to the fortress of Latifpur; and for this reason the pargana is reported to have been much less productive at the time of the permanent settlement than it had been in Malik Farrukh's time. It was assessed by Mr. Duncan at Rs. 14,252-4-3; and the cultivated area was returned at 10,743 acres, so that the extension of the area under the plough since the permanent settlement has been less than 2,000 acres. At the present time the revenue demand on the pargana stands at Rs. 16,949, the addition being due to assessments of lands that had escaped settlement in 1790, the resumption of revenue-free grants and similar causes and the incidence falls at a rate of Re. 1-13-1 per cultivated area and of Re. 0-6-8 per acre of total area, the latter being the lowest of any pargana in the Chunar tahsil except *taluqa* Saktesgarh. The pargana does not form a separate subdivision for either fiscal or criminal purposes, being merged in the *tahsil* of Chunar. In police matters the whole pargana falls within the jurisdiction of the station at Ahraura.

AHUGI, *Tappa* UPRAUDH, *Tahsil* MIRZAPUR.

Ahugi is an old village on the road between Halia and Dibhor, in 24° 47′ N. and 82° 19′ E. It is 33 miles from Mirzapur and three and a half miles south of Halia, and is situated at the point where two roads diverge, one going direct to Bhopari in Rewah by the Dibhorghat, and the other leading to Bardi on the Son river past the Adesar Hill. The village is divided into two portions, Ahugi Kalan and Ahugi Khurd, and the houses are scattered along both banks of the Adh or Adhwa river, which here flows in a deep channel with plenty of water. Ahugi Kalan had in 1901 a population of 502 persons, 491 being Hindus and eleven Musalmans; while in Ahugi Khurd there are 587 inhabitants, of whom 524 were Hindus and 63 Musalmans, Brahmans being the numerically strongest caste in the former and Kols in the latter case. Its favourable situation amongst fine old trees on the banks of a running stream must have led at an early date to the selection of Ahugi as a halting place for the Banjara merchants, and afterwards to its occupation by Brahmans as a pleasant site for their temples. There are, however, no temples now standing, though there are many ruins both to the north and to the west of the village, besides numerous statues. On a long, flat slab in a temple to the north a mutilated inscription was found by General Cunningham which led him to believe that the temples belonged to the mediæval period of about 1000 A.D. The village contains no public building and is a place of no importance.

AKORHI, *Tappa* CHHIYANVE, *Tahsil* MIRZAPUR.

Akorhi is a large agricultural village lying in latitude 25° 11′ N. and longitude 82° 28′ E., distant 10 miles west of Mirzapur, with which it is connected by a metalled road. The village is situated on the banks of a *nala* which is dry during the greater part of the year but is a considerable stream in the rains; it is known as the Pahari *nadi*. Akorhi has no railway station of its own, but is adjacent to the new crossing station on the East Indian Railway at Birohi. The population has decreased since 1881, when it numbered 4,469 persons. The number rose to 4,577 in 1891, but fell to 4,408 in 1901. Of the inhabitants 4,043 were Hindus and 365 were Musalmans, the Hindus being for the most part Brahmans

and Rajputs. Many of the latter are engaged by bankers and money-lenders in the city of Mirzapur as peons, and others are attached as servants to the temple at Bindhachal. They have a reputation for turbulence, and during the Mutiny a panic was produced in Mirzapur city by the spreading of a report that the inhabitants of Akorhi were coming to loot the town. A police outpost however which was maintained in the village for some years has now been abolished as no longer necessary. There are several temples of local repute in the place, but none of any architectural pretensions; and many of the houses are built of the stone which is easily procurable from the neighbouring hills. The village belongs to the Maharaja of Benares; it has a lower primary school.

ASHTBHUJA, *Tappa* CHHIYANVE, *Tahsil* MIRZAPUR.

This is a noted place of pilgrimage lying on a detached spur of the Vindhyan tableland, in 25° 10′ N. and 82° 30′ E., about 8 miles south-west from Mirzapur and two and a half miles from Bindhachal. There is no village; and, besides the priests and attendants of the temples, no population. The name of the place is derived from the tutelar deity, the *Ashta-bhuja Devi* or eight-limbed goddess, one of the numerous titles of the consort of Siva. The pilgrimage to the temples here is usually an adjunct to the worship at Bindhachal. The pilgrims proceed by the Allahabad road to the foot of the hill, where there is a tank, fed by a perennial spring, known as Sita-kund. Thence, two flights of steps lead to the brow of the hill, one old and comparatively deserted and the other lined with shrines of great antiquity but of no architectural pretensions. Arrived at the submit, the pilgrims pass across the plateau to the opposite declivity, about a mile distant, where another handsome staircase leads to the Kali-Koh, the cave of the goddess Kali. Thence the route leads back directly across the plain to Bindhachal. Below the first ascent is a large and ancient grove of mangoes; and the slopes being similarly wooded, the temples have a pleasing and picturesque effect from a distance. The summit of the hill, a little to the east of the temples, is crowned by a commodious bungalow, erected as sanitorium for Mirzapur by the liberality of Lala Jangi Mal, one of the richest men in the city in times gone by.

AURAI, *Pargana* BHADOHI, *Tahsil* KORH.

Aurai is a small village situated in latitude 25° 16′ N. and longitude 82° 34′ E. It is distant 8 miles north from Mirzapur and 6 miles south-east from Korh; and lies at the point where the grand trunk road is crossed by the metalled road from Mirzapur to Jaunpur. The population of the village amounted in 1901 to 306 persons, of whom 302 were Hindus and 4 Muhammadans. It contains a police station and a post office, but is otherwise a place of no importance.

BAJHA, *Taluqa* MAJHWA, *Tahsil* MIRZAPUR.

Bajha is a large agricultural village lying in latitude 25° 11′ N. and longitude 82° 45′ E., at a distance of 12 miles north-east from Mirzapur. The place is only noticeable for the size of its population, as it is overshadowed by its neighbour Kachhwa, where the police station and other government institutions are situated. In 1881 the inhabitants numbered 2,692 souls and in 1901 there were 2,473 persons in the place, only 61 of whom were Musalmans. The prevailing Hindu caste is that of Gautam Rajputs.

BARA, *Tappa* KON, *Tahsil* MIRZAPUR.

Bara is also known as Chil and is the general name of a bazar which embraces portions of several village sites: it is situated only two miles from Mirzapur in latitude 25°10′ N. and longitude 82° 35′ E., on the north side of the Ganges, and at the point where the metalled roads to Gopiganj and Jaunpur diverge. The village consists of a single street of shops along the metalled road, and contains a mosque and a small *sarai*. To the north of it is situated the Narghat military encamping-ground; and in the village are a post-office and a pound. The population appears to have decreased of late years, for in 1881 it numbered 1,582 souls, whereas in 1901 there were 1,332 inhabitants, 1,195 being Hindus and 137 Musalmans.

BARAINI, *Taluqa* MAJHWA, *Tahsil* MIRZAPUR.

This is a large agricultural village in latitude 25° 12′ N. and longitude 82° 44′ E., distant 9 miles north-east from Mirzapur, and situated close to the point where the road from Mirzapur to Benares

crosses the Ganges. There is a lower primary school in the village, and conspicuous objects in the landscape are a large temple built of stone and a *sati* monument, still the object of considerable veneration. The population is large but has decreased from 2,020 persons in 1881 to 1,870 in 1901, 45 being Musalmans. Bhuinhars are the principal Hindu caste.

BARAUNDHA, *Tappa* UPRAUDH, *Tahsil* MIRZAPUR.

This is a small village situated in latitude 24° 57′ N. and longitude 82°16′E. It is distant 24 miles from Mirzapur on the great Deccan road, close to the point where that road crosses the Belan river. A masonry causeway has been provided at the crossing. The population of the place has decreased; in 1901 it numbered 608 persons as against 774 in 1891. All but five of the inhabitants were Hindus, the majority being Brahmans. Baraundha has a small unimportant bazar, an inspection bungalow belonging to the Public Works department, and a military encamping-ground. There is also a small school in the village.

BARHAR *Pargana, Tahsil* ROBERTSGANJ.

The pargana of Barhar forms the north-eastern portion of tahsil Robertsganj. On the north it is bounded by tappa Chaurasi, *taluqa* Saktesgarh, and parganas Bhagwat, Ahraura and Kera-Mangraur; on the east is pargana Bijaigarh and on the west tappa Upraudh, the Belan river forming for some distance the dividing line between them. The southern boundary is formed by the Kaimur range which separates Barhar from pargana Agori and the state of Rewah.

The average area of the pargana, according to the returns for the five years ending in 1907, was 290,528 acres or 453·9 square miles. Of this 40,228 acres or 13·85 per cent. were recorded as barren, being covered by sites, roads, buildings, water and the like or otherwise barren; while 139,973 acres or 48·18 per cent. of the total area were culturable but out of cultivation. The cultivated area amounted during the same period to 110,327 acres or 37·97 per cent. of the pargana. In its general characteristics, Barhar resembles Bijaigarh. The Belan river which rises in Bijaigarh

flows westwards across the pargana till it turns south near Ghorawal. The soil of this valley is damp and fertile, the water being near enough to the surface to be raised by the *dhenkul* or lever: rice is here extensively grown and there is a considerable amount of irrigation. Elsewhere the soil is poor and unproductive like that of Bijaigarh; but the extent of hill and jungle is somewhat less than in that pargana. The *kharif* is the principal harvest and normally occupies 72,939 acres as against 66,275 acres in the *rabi*. Rice is the chief crop grown in the *kharif:* it covers 42·04 per cent. of the acreage sown in the harvest, and after it come *til*, maize, and the pulses *urd*, *mung* and *moth*. In the *rabi* 28·97 per cent. of the area sown is devoted to wheat, 11·54 per cent. to gram, and 9·98 per cent. to wheat in combination with barley or gram. The irrigated area amounts to 22,510 acres or 20·40 per cent. of that cultivated; of this 13 per cent. is watered from tanks and 86 per cent. from other sources. In the latter are included the shallow submersion tanks whose beds are sown with rabi *crops* after the standing water has been drawn off for the irrigation of the rice crop. Such tanks exist in large numbers in the pargana; and it is probably due to them that the double-cropped area reaches the high figure of 28,890 acres or 26·19 per cent. of the cultivation.

The population of the pargana in 1881 numbered 75,699 souls, and this rose to 79,938 persons in 1891. At the last enumeration in 1901 the inhabitants amounted only to 66,995 persons, of whom 34,602 were females. Classified according to religion there were 63,904 Hindus, 3,072 Musalmans and 19 persons of other religions. There is one town in the pargana, Ghorawal, which has a population of 1,003 souls, and the only other important places are Shahganj, which has a police station, and Robertsganj, the headquarters of the tahsil. The communications of the pargana are fair. The Ahraura-Chopan road traverses it from north to south, and this is joined by the roads from Lalganj to Pannuganj and Mariahan to Hindubari, which run from north-west to south-east across the pargana. Other roads run from north to south across it, one passing from Rajgarh on the Mariahan-Hindubari road to the ferry over the Son at Chhatwar, past Shahganj, and the other to the ferry at Kota-Newari.

In the early records Agori and Barhar are frequently referred to as a single subdivision; but from January 6th, 1847, the date of Mr. Roberts's report on the revision of settlement in southern Mirzapur, they have been usually spoken of separately, unless when reference has been made to the Raja, who derives his title from both. The pargana contains 595 villages, at present divided into 626 *mahals*. Of the latter 210 are in the hands of single *zamindars*; 176 are held in joint *zamindari* tenure; while of the *pattidari* estates 27 are perfect and 212 imperfect *pattidari*. The chief cultivating castes are Brahmans, Rajputs, Kurmis, Kols, Ahirs and Chamars. In 1907-08 proprietors as such cultivated 27·83 per cent., occupancy and exproprietary tenants 5·02 per cent., and tenants-at-will 62·72 per cent. of the holdings area, the small remainder being rent-free or in the hands of fixed rate tenants. Only 12 per cent. of the total area included in holdings was sublet, a smaller proportion than even that of tappa Upraudh. A very large area, amounting in all to 24,323 acres, was grain-rented. Tenants' cash rates varied from Re. 1-7-2 for tenants-at-will to Re. 0-4-5 for tenants at fixed rates. Occupancy tenants paid Re. 1-1-7 an acre and *shikmi* tenants Re. 1-3-9 an acre. The largest landholders are Chandel Rajputs, Kurmis and Gosains; and the principal landowner is Rani Bed Saran Kunwar of Agori-Barhar, who resides at Rajpur in the pargana.

Some account has already been given, in dealing with pargana Agori, of how Raja Adil Sah came into possession of his estates in Agori, Singrauli and Barhar; and a brief recapitulation is all that is needed here. Warren Hastings granted him the *zamindari* of Agori-Barhar and, until he should come into possession of his estates, a cash allowance of Rs. 8,001 secured by the assignment of certain villages. As soon as he had come into possession, the allowance was ordered to be resumed; but as he had meanwhile mortgaged the villages on which the allowance was secured as security for a loan, Mr. Duncan obtained permission to defer resumption until the debt had been discharged. Mr. Duncan set aside *taluqa* Kon in pargana Agori and 28 estates in Barhar as *jagir* for the Raja, on the understanding that the revenue on them, which was estimated to be Rs. 4,001, should be applied to the discharge of the debt and then resumed when the latter had been

paid off. In 1803 Mr. Barton was ordered to make an inquiry into the affairs of the Raja and reported that Mr. Duncan's grant had been a permanent one and that the Raja was entitled to an allowance of Rs. 8,001 per annum or to villages paying a sufficient demand to make up that sum. This report having been approved, Mr. Barton was ordered to revise the demands of certain villages so as to secure the Raja an annual allowance of Rs. 8,001 or to assign him villages paying in all that sum. As a result of this the Raja became both *zamindar* and *jagirdar* of parganas Agori and Singrauli and of 39 *mahals* in Barhar, Mr. Barton adding 11 to the original 28 granted by Mr. Duncan in Barhar. From this time until 1845, when Mr. Roberts was deputed to settle the disputes that had arisen between the Raja and the old *zamindars*, the fiscal history consists mainly of the contentions of the rival parties. As a result of Mr. Roberts's proceedings, 22 *mahals* out of the 39 were settled with the resident *zamindars*, who were directed to pay their revenue direct to the tahsil to be made over to the Raja, and the remainder were settled with the proprietors direct. The rest of the pargana was settled by Mr. Duncan with the *zamindars* at Rs. 49,251, and this amount has remained practically unchanged ever since, the present demand being Rs. 49,241-8-0, to which an addition of Rs. 7,586 may be made on account of cesses. Barhar does not form a separate sub-division for revenue or criminal purposes, being merged in the Robertsganj tahsil; and it is not a scheduled portion of the district. For purposes of police jurisdiction there are stations at Robertsganj, Ghorawal and Shahganj.

BHADOHI, *Pargana* BHADOHI, *Tahsil* KORH.

The ancient capital of the pargana to which it gives its name is situated in 25° 24′ N. and 82° 35′ E. on the direct road from Mirzapur to Jaunpur. It is distant 21 miles north from Mirzapur city, 8 miles north-east from Korh, and 2½ miles south from the Barna river which forms the boundary of the tahsil with Jaunpur. There is a railway station on the Partabgarh-Mughal Sarai section of the Oudh and Rohilkhand railway, named after the village.

Bhadohi is the oldest place in the pargana, but is now much decayed and retains but little of its former importance. The first

settlements of the spot appear to date from a period anterior to the Muhammadan conquest, and to have been made by Rajputs shortly after the expulsion of the Bhars. But it is to its Musalman rulers that it owes whatever it has of importance. It is said that one of Shahab-ud-din's officers, by name Saiyid Ibad-ullah, reduced this part of the country, and the *khadims* or servants at the mausoleum of Saiyid Salar still claim to be descendants of his followers. But the first regular settlement of Musalmans in this part of the country seems to have taken place in the time of the Sharqi dynasty of Jaunpur. The ancestors of the Qazi family, which is still resident, claim to have come in the time of Bahlol Lodi, when one Abdul Mulk was appointed *khalifa* of the pargana. A descendant of Abdul Mulk, by name Abdul Karim, was appointed *qazi* in the reign of Sher Shah. Akbar, after settling the country, confirmed the *qazi* in his appointment, and appointed a *faujdar* or governor. A succession of governors ruled the tract till the time of Balwant Singh. The first of the line was Nawab Sher Khan, who built the fort at Bhadohi now in ruins. It was around this fort that the town, which is composed of several bazars of various dates, mostly bearing the names of their founders, grew up.

The police station is now situated on the site of the old fort; and there are also in the village a pound, two schools and a post-office. The historical remains other than the fort include several small mosques; and at Marjad-patti close by a cenotaph which is copied from the tomb of Saiyid Salar Ghazi at Bahraich: at this a fair is held every year. The population of the place in 1881 numbered 4,792 persons but this subsequently decreased; for in 1901 there were only 3,974 inhabitants, 1,091 being Hindus and 2,883 Musalman. The population of the place includes a large number of Julahas who once carried on a flourishing manufacture of fine cloth, but have now turned to carpet weaving.

BHADOHI *Pargana, Tahsil* KORH.

The pargana of Bhadohi which forms the tahsil of Korh is the north-western pargana of the Mirzapur district. It lies between the parallels of 25° 9′ and 25° 32′ N, and 82° 14′ and 82° 45. E., and is part of the Family Domains of the Maharaja of

Benares. It is bounded on the north by the Barna river, which separates it from Jaunpur; on the south by the Ganges, except for a length of ten miles where tappa Kon intervenes between it and the river; on the east by pargana Kaswar Raja of the Benares district; and on the west by parganas Kewai and Mah of the Allahabad district.

The total area of the pargana according to the returns for the five years ending in 1907 was 253,390 acres or 395·9 square miles. It is a uniform plain, devoid of well-marked natural features and there are no streams of sufficient magnitude within its boundaries to have a permanent flow. The country slopes gently down to the river Ganges, where the banks are of soft alluvial earth liable to inundation; and the soils are either *doras* or loam, *matiyar* or clay, and *balua* or sand. It is as poor in *jhils* as it is in streams, those at Samdha, Udra and Baraura being the only ones that attain large dimensions, and even these are practically dry towards the end of the hot weather. The country is for the most part well-wooded, chiefly with mango groves; but there is little jungle except a few patches of *dhak*. Of the total area 60,193 acres or 23·76 per cent. are recorded as barren waste, 34,480 acres being covered with water, or sites, roads, buildings and the like, and 25,713 acres being otherwise barren. In the latter figure is included the land rendered unculturable by the saline efflorescence known as *reh*. Of such land there is a substantial amount, especially in the neighbourhood of the town of Bhadohi, near Ujh, and at Sherpur in the centre of the pargana. At Sherpur the efflorescence is extremely abundant and at times the plains look as if they were covered with hoar-frost. Salt can be extracted from the soil in many places, especially in the north-west corner of the pargana. Both salt and saltpetre were formerly manufactured to a considerable extent, but the production is now trifling. The culturable area of the pargana out of cultivation amounts to 32,882 acres or 12·98 per cent. of the whole; of this 11,730 acres are covered with groves and 18,037 are returned as old or new fallow, the culturable waste being very small in extent. For the five years ending in 1907 the average cultivated area of Bhadohi was 160,315 acres, the proportion to total area being 63·27 per cent. Out of this area 57,768 acres or 36·03 per cent.

were irrigated, 92·57 per cent. being watered from wells. The average depth to water is some thirty feet and so earthen wells are but little used, but the pargana is particularly rich in masonry wells. According to the returns, the principal harvest is the *kharif*, which covers an average of 106,063 acres as against 89,032 acres in the *rabi*, the area twice-cropped in the year being 34,100 acres or 21·27 per cent. of the net cultivation. The chief crops grown in the *kharif* are rice, which covers 32 per cent. of the area sown in this harvest, and *juar* and *bajra* either alone or in combination with *arhar*. In the spring, 40·34 per cent. is occupied by barley and 9·79 by barley intermixed with gram, the remainder being devoted to peas 17·12 per cent., wheat, 13·22 per cent., gram alone, 11·77 per cent. and miscellaneous crops.

Among the cultivators Brahmans predominate, and after them come Monas, Gaharwar and Bisen Rajputs. The lower castes, such as Chamars, Bhars and Pasis, hold a little land, but in most cases they are agricultural labourers, who carry on the cultivation of the soil for men of higher castes. Of the total holdings area 16·87 per cent. was in 1906-07 included in proprietary holdings, either as *sir* or *khudkasht*, 59·67 per cent. was held by privileged tenants, 10·12 per cent. by occupancy tenants of over twenty years' standing and 6·62 per cent. by tenants-at-will; and the remainder was held rent-free, either as a grant from the landlord or in lieu of wages, the former tenure being unusually common and extending to 11,087 acres. No less than 45·26 per cent. of the land included in holdings is sublet, this being one of the highest proportions in the district. There is no land at present which is grain-rented, and the average cash rental varies between Rs. 4·35 an acre for fixed rate tenants to Rs. 4·04 for occupancy tenants in the land in which they have declared rights and Rs. 3·29 for tenants-at-will whether they have held for over or under twenty years. Sub-tenants on the other hand pay as much as Rs. 8·9 per acre, but they generally hold the best land as under tenants of those who have privileged rights; while tenants-at-will usually have to content themselves with the worst. Owing to the great density of the population the holdings are generally very small, with the result that the peasantry are as a rule in poor circumstances, while there is a large low-caste population. There are 1,196 villages in Korh, which are divided into

1,256 *mahals*. The Maharaja of Benares is owner of the soil in all but 59 villages and mahals; in the latter he holds jointly with *manzuridars* or other sub-proprietors, the majority of these being Brahmans and Monas Rajputs.

The population of pargana Bhadohi in 1881 numbered 283,027 persons, and this figure rose to 291,218 in 1891. At the last enumeration in 1901 there were 285,240 inhabitants, of whom 146,101 were females. Classified according to religion there were 262,792 Hindus, 22,411 Musalmans, 23 Aryas, 13 Sikhs and one Christian. Brahmans were the numerically strongest Hindu caste numbering 65,404 persons; and after them come Ahirs, 38,242; Chamars, 34,913; Kewats, 17,477; Rajputs, 16,339; Pasis, 11,148; Koeris, 9,177; Gadariyas, 7,396; Telis, 5,866; and Lohars, 5,561. Other castes with over two thousand members in each case were Kurmis, Banias, Kumars, Kahars, Kalwars, Nais, Kayasths, Lunias, Dhobis, Halwais, Musahars and Bharbhunjas. The Rajputs belonged to a variety of different clans, the chief of which are the Bisen, Bais, Gaharwar and Monas. Among Muhammadans, Julahas far outnumber all other subdivisions; and after them come Behnas, Sheikhs, Pathans, Faqirs and Darzis. Practically the entire population is dependent for its support on agriculture or the trade in agricultural produce, the only industries being a little sugar-refining, saltpetre manufacture and carpet-weaving. The only town in the tahsil is Gopiganj, but there are some large and important villages. Korh is the headquarters of administration; Aurai and Suriawan possess police stations; Bhadohi is the old capital town of the pargana; Madho Singh, Ghosea, Dig, Nai Bazar, Maharajganj, Chauri Danu, Khamaria, Jangiganj, Durgaganj and others are important market towns or local distributing centres. A list of all these markets, and others showing the fairs, schools and post-offices of the tahsil, will be found in the appendix.

Means of communication are excellent. The Oudh and Rohilkhand railway traverses the north of the tahsil and has stations at Suriawan, Bhadohi and Parsipur. Between this and the Ganges, closely following the alignment of the grand trunk road, runs the newly constructed line of the Bengal and North-Western railway from Benares to Jhusi, with a branch connecting Aurai with Narghat. The metalled road from Mirzapur to Jaunpur passes

across the east centre of the pargana from south to north; another branch metalled road connects Gopiganj on the grand trunk road and Mirzapur and another Gopiganj and Bhadohi. The other roads are unmetalled but are good of their class. They run from Khamaria to Durgaganj, Gopiganj to Suriawan; Niwaria ghat to the road from Durgaganj to Benares which follows the Oudh and Rohilkhand railway, and from Jangiganj to Tulshi Dhan. Communication with the southern bank of the Ganges is effected by means of several ferries, most of which are leased out by the Maharaja of Benares. The chief ferry is of course that at Narghat near Mirzapur which is under the control of the district board. A list of all the ferries, whether private or public, will be found in the appendix.

The general history of the pargana has found a place in the historical notice of the district, while in Chapters III and IV has been given some account of the fiscal history; it is only necessary therefore to briefly recapitulate the facts here. The pargana is supposed to derive its name from the Bhars. These were finally ousted by Monas Rajputs, who obtained a *zamindari sanad* for it from successive emperors at Delhi. About 1728 A.D. one of their number, Jaswant Singh, succeeded in ousting the other members of his family and establishing his authority completely over the whole pargana. He took the title of Raja and set up a semi-independent rule at Suriawan, till, falling into arrears with his revenue, he was ejected by Raja Prithipat Singh of Partabgarh about 1739 A.D., who set up three other Monas Rajputs in his place. These, however, were no better than Jaswant Singh as payers of revenue; and during the confusion that prevailed in 1748—51 owing to Safdar Jang's defeat at Ram Chhatauni, Raja Prithipat Singh handed over Bhadohi to Balwant Singh who paid up the arrears of revenue and took deeds of mortgage from the Monas *zamindars* by which he was recognised as their overlord. Three years later, when his position had been thoroughly secured, Balwant Singh made over the pargana to certain kinsmen of his own. His arrangements remained in force for the next thirty years, the British administrators refusing to interfere in the internal administration of the pargana. In 1781 a *sanad* for pargana Bhadohi was granted to Raja Mahip Narayan Singh by the

Governor-General; and again in 1783 a *patta* or lease was executed, by which after deducting Rs. 1,58,341 as the *jagir* of the Raja, Rs. 1,75,659 were declared to be the amount payable to the Government. Under this *patta* the present Maharaja continues to hold. No *mufassil* or detailed settlement was at that time made with the occupants subordinate to the Raja, the Government purposely refraining from interference. Regulation XV of 1795 was passed to enable persons dissatisfied with the arrangements of the Raja to obtain redress by applicatien to the collector of Benares, but the people availed themselves of it but little.. In Raja Mahip Narayan's time, although no hereditary right to the possession of particular villages was generally recognised, settlements were as a rule made with those who in the rest of the province would have been recorded as *zamindars.* On the succession of Raja Udit Narayan a claim was advanced on the Raja's behalf to the sole proprietorship of the soil, the assessments were several times revised, and villages were farmed without respect to previous possession. These proceedings, coupled with the resumption of old rent-free holdings, led to discontent and numerous complaints, both by petition and personally to the Governor General on tour. These caused the deputation of Mr. W. W. Bird, on whose report was framed Regulation VII of 1828. To give effect to the provisions of this regulation, so far as they concerned the protection of the rights of the inferior proprietors, Mr. Valpy was appointed settlement officer. After enquiries extending over about three years, subordinate or inferior proprietary rights were held to exist in 250 villages, the revenue payers being called *manzuridars,* that is, those whose rights had been admitted. In these villages 80 per cent. of the ascertained assets were declared to be payable to the Raja, the balance being left to the *manzuridars* as their profit and to cover the cost of collection. In the remainder or *na-manzuri* villages, the Raja was recorded sole proprietor.

Bhadohi is almost entirely destitute of architectural monuments The only building worthy of note is an old temple of Mahadeo, in a magnificent grove of tamarind trees, at Semardh on the banks of the Ganges. This temple which is now partially sunk in the ground, is solidly built of stone, in a simple and massive style, almost without ornament. The forts of the Monas occupants of

the pargana were constructed of mud, and are now mere shapeless mounds. The earlier strongholds, known as *Bhardihs,* evidently had within their circuit buildings of brick, but of these nothing but the foundations, the neighbouring tank and heaps of fragments of brick remain.

For criminal purposes Bhadohi and Kera Mangraur form a subdivision which is in the charge of the deputy superintendent of the Family Domains, who is a member of the Indian Civil Service and is stationed at Mirzapur. There is also a bench of honorary magistrates, six in number and holding office for five years, which sits at Korh and has jurisdiction within the pargana. The administration in civil and revenue matters is entirely *sui generis* and has already been explained in Chapter IV. Under Regulation VII of 1828, as modified by Act XIV of 1881, the Maharaja is recognised as collector and is permitted to delegate his powers in regard to rent and revenue cases to one or more subordinate officers, the procedure and limitations of jurisdiction being very closely similar to those which obtained in the North-Western Provinces before the passing of Act X of 1859, that is, before the abolition of the old summary procedure and the exclusion of the civil court from jurisdiction in rent and revenue matters. In addition to this the Maharaja, with the sanction of the Government, appoints a civil judge called the Native Commissioner who hears all rent-suits, other than those which come under the summary jurisdiction of the Maharaja as collector, and other suits of a civil nature in which land or the rent, revenue or produce of land may directly or indirectly be the subject. Appeals from these courts lie to the deputy superintendent and the Board of Revenue; but of other civil suits the ordinary district courts have cognizance and appeals lie to the High Court. For purposes of police jurisdiction there are stations at Gopiganj, Aurai, Suriawan and Bhadohi.

BHAGWAN TALAO, *Tappa* UPRAUDH, *Tahsil* MIRZAPUR.

Bhagwan Talao is otherwise known as Rajapur: it lies on the great Deccan road in latitude 25° 3′ N. and longitude 82° 27′ E, at a distance of 9 miles from Mirzapur. The population is small; in 1901 it only numbered 157 persons, of whom 152 were Hindus and 5 were Musalmans. It is a place of no importance but

contains a small inspection bungalow belonging to the Public Works department, and two encamping-grounds.

BHAGWAT *Pargana, Tahsil* CHUNAR.

Bhagwat is the central pargana of tahsil Chunar: on the north it is bounded by Haveli Chunar; on the east by parganas Bhuili and Ahraura; on the south by pargana Barhar; and on the west by *taluqa* Saktesgarh. It has a length of 20 miles from north to south and an average breadth of 7 miles. The southern portion of the pargana lies on the Vindhyan plateau, while the northern is situated in the valley of the Ganges. Between them lies a wild and broken tract of detached hills and valleys covered with scrub jungle and known as the *jungal mahals*, the produce of which, in consequence of its close proximity to the town of Chunar, is in great demand for firewood. One spur of the Vindhyan range running northwards along the western side of the pargana terminates in the bold rock of Chunar. The soil of the upland is poor and stony; but that of the lowland is rich and forms a portion of the great rice-growing plain of Bhuili. The drainage of the southern hills is carried off by several torrents, the chief of which is the Barhi *nala*. This unites near Patita with the Jirgo which flows northwards to the Ganges past Chunar.

The total area of the pargana is 85,451 acres or 133·5 square miles: of this 27,861 acres or 32·60 per cent. are recorded barren waste. The area of culturable land out of cultivation amounts to 22,054 acres or 46·69 per cent. of the whole, 14,786 acres of this being culturable waste which has never been under the plough. For the five years ending in 1907 the cultivated area averaged 31,450 acres or 36·80 per cent. of the total area. The irrigated area is small and during the same period averaged only 5,260 acres or 16·73 per cent. of that cultivated. Irrigation is derived for the most part from wells, these being easily constructed where the subsoil is firm in the northern rice-growing tracts; but 1,648 acres or 31 per cent. of the whole area irrigated is watered from tanks. Of the cultivated area 23·68 per cent. is twice cropped in the year, a proportion which closely approaches the district average The *rabi* is the principal harvest, an average of 20,090 acres being sown as against 18,797 in the *kharif*. The chief crops grown are

wheat in combination either with gram or barley, gram unmixed, and wheat; while in the *kharif* 43·34 of the area sown is devoted to rice, and 19·32 per cent. of the reminder to *bajra* or *bajra* combined with *arhar*.

Of the various cultivating castes, Kurmis predominate, and the rest of the cultivating body is made up of Koeris, Brahmans, Ahirs, Gadariyas and Chamars. In 1907-08 some 13 per cent. of the land was included in proprietary holdings, 15·61 per cent. was held by fixed rate tenants, 23·35 per cent. by exproprietary or occupancy tenants, and 47·10 per cent. by tenants-at-will; the remainder, which only amounted to 273 acres, was rent-free. Only 20 per cent. of the area included in holdings was sublet, which is below the average of the tahsil. The grain-rented area amounted in the same year to 5,703 acres, the rental being Rs. 5,345; and tenants' cash rates ranged from Rs. 5-15-11 per acre for *shikmi* tenants to Rs. 2-15-7 paid by tenants-at-will. Tenants at fixed rates paid Rs. 3-4-11 and occupancy tenants Rs. 3-3-4 an acre. There are 101 villages in Bhagwat, and these are divided into 132 *mahals*. Of the latter 22 are in the hands of single *zamindars*, while 84 are held in joint *zamindari* and 26 in *pattidari* tenure all but four of the latter being of the imperfect form. Of the various proprietary castes, Kurmis, Brahmans and Bhunihars are the chief, while the largest landed proprietors are Dip Narayan Chaudhari who owns 21 villages, wholly or in part, paying land revenue to the extent of Rs. 9,448; and Chaudharis Lachhmi Narayan and Shimbhu Nath of Adhwar who hold six villages and pay Rs. 1,168. The population of the pargana in 1881 numbered 24,414 persons and this rose to 24,867 in 1891. At the last enumeration in 1901 there were 22,828 inhabitants, of whom 11,662 were females. Classified according to religions, there were 21,324 Hindus, 1,502 Musalmans and two persons of other religions. There is no town in the pargana, nor is there any place in it which is recognized as a capital, the village from which it derives its name being an insignificant hamlet. The largest village is Saria, which is only few miles from Ahraura and has a population of 1,524 souls, and the only other one with a population exceeding one thousand persons is Patita. Communications are decidedly poor, the only road in the pargana being the unmetalled road which passes diagonally

across the lowland in its course from Chunar to Ahraura. The upland has no road in it at all. Lists of the schools, post-offices, markets and fairs of the pargana will be found in the appendix.

In the days of Akbar pargana Bhagwat was known as Hanwa. How or when the name was changed is not known, but the old name became extinct before the pargana passed into the hands of the branch of the Gaharwar clan which at some period, not precisely determinable, embraced the faith of Islam. These Gaharwars were *zamindars* of the pargana and their stronghold was in the fort of Patita, a village lying about eight miles south-east of Chunar. In the time of Balwant Singh the head of the clan was Diwan Jamiat Khan who managed to defeat all Raja Balwant Singh's attempts to capture the fort till 1752 A.D. In that year Jamiat Khan fell sick and the opportunity was at once taken by Raja Balwant Singh to attack the place. A brave defence was carried on for over a month, until provisions ran short, when Jamiat Khan evacuated the fort, only to die shortly afterwards of fever in the jungles. The pargana then passed into the hands of Raja Balwant Singh, along with the fort. At the time of the permanent settlement the pargana was assessed to a revenue of Rs. 29,482; but at the revision of 1842 this was increased to Rs. 38,397 owing to the discovery of land that had escaped assessment in 1790 or to resumption of lands that had been held on service tenure. At the present time the revenue amounts to Rs. 38,282-2-9, and to this an addition of Rs. 5,582-13-8 may be made on account of cesses. The incidence per cultivated acre is Re. 1-11-2 an acre and is the lowest in the tahsil with the exception of *taluqa* Saktesgarh. The pargana does not form a separate subdivision for criminal or revenue purposes, being merged in the tahsil of Chunar. The jurisdiction in police matters belongs to the station at Chunar.

BHUILI, *Pargana* BHUILI, *Tahsil* CHUNAR.

Bhuili is a large agricultural village lying in the south-west of the pargana to which it gives its name. It is 11 miles almost due east of Chunar and some 30 miles from Mirzapur, the latitude being 25° 6′ N. and the longitude 83° 3′ E. The population has decreased since 1881: in that year the inhabitants numbered

2,061 persons; in 1891 their number had fallen to 2,064 and at the last emmeration in 1901 there were only 1,791 persons in the place, of whom 945 were women. Hindus amounted to 1,209 persons and Musalmans to 582, the prevailing Hindu caste being that of Bayars. Bhuili contains a post-office and a small school: it is a place which has some trade in agricultural produce and a daily market is held in it.

On the hill above the village is an old ruined fort and signal-tower. There is also a cave, locally called *kho*, in the hill which contains two illegible inscriptions on the rock inside. In the neighbourhood of this was found one square stone obelisk with curious carvings on all four faces. The scenes sculptured on them are either ordinary scenes of life, such as a woman suckling her child, or monstrous ones, such as a man astride on a serpent. A figure often repeated is said to represent a man in the act of skinning a cow or buffalo. From this Buchanan inferred that the people whom the sculptures represent were not averse to devouring one or other of these animals, and he attributed the sculptures to the Soeris.*

BHUILI *Pargana, Tahsil* CHUNAR.

Bhuili is the north-eastern pargana of the Chunar tahsil, and is bounded on the north by parganas Ralhupur, Dhus and Majhwan of the Benares district; on the east by pargana Majhwar of Benares and Kera-Mangraur of Mirzapur; on the south by parganas Kera-Mangraur and Ahraura; on the west by Bhagwat and Haveli Chunar; and on the noth-west by the Ganges which separates it from pargana Dehat Amanat in the Benares district.

The total area of the pargana is 56,491 acres or 88·2 square miles. The face of the country is agreeably diversified by hills and plains, especially to the south; but the greater part of the pargana is a flat plain devoid of physical characteristics and famed for the richness of its soil. The only river in the pargana is the Garai, which flows across it form south to north.

Only 6,528 acres of 11·56 per cent. of the total area of the pargana are recorded barren—a smaller proportion than is found in any other portion of the district. The culturable area out of

* Cunningham: *A. R.*, vol. XI, p. 130.

cultivation is returned at 5,345 acres only, the bulk being old fallow. During the five years ending in 1907 the cultivated area averaged 44,617 acres: this formed a proportion of no less than 78·78 per cent. of the total area and exceeds that of any other pargana. Of this area during the same period 10,333 acres on an average were irrigated, the bulk of this being dependent on wells. Irrigation is easy on the eastern side, where earthen wells can be cheaply dug, but the western and especially the north-western sides are not so favourably circumstanced.

Over 40 per cent. of the cultivated area or 18,067 acres is annually twice-cropped. The principal harvest is the *rabi;* it occupies on an average 31,076 acres as against 28,131 acres sown in the *kharif*. The chief crop grown in the spring is the small variety of pea, called locally *kirao* (pisum arvense), which occupies over 20 per cent. of the area sown in the harvest; after this come peas, barley, gram, wheat and wheat in combination with barley or gram. In the *kharif* no less than 73·52 per cent. of the area sown is devoted to rice, a crop for which Bhuili is famous.

The population of Bhuili in 1881 numbered 58,336 persons, and this rose to 59,597 in 1891. At the last enumeration there were 55,625 inhabitants, of whom 28,240 were females. Classified according to religion there were 51,293 Hindus, 4,312 Musalmans and 20 persons of other religions; but the details of various castes are not available. The pargana contains 245 villages, at present divided into 401 *mahals*. Of the latter 97 are in the hands of single *zamindars*; 145 are held in joint *zamindari* tenure; while of *pattidari* estates 26 are perfect and 131 imperfect *pattidari*. The largest landholders are Bhuinhars, including the Maharaja of Benares, and Kurmis; and the chief cultivating castes are Kurmis, Brahmans, Rajputs and Chamars. The principal proprietors are Babus Jugal Kishor and Bhagwati Prasad, Agarwalas, of Chunar, six villages assessed to Rs. 5,278; Dip Narayan Chaudhari, four villages assessed to Rs. 2,273; and Pandits Raja Ram Ju Kirpa Ram and Daya Ram, Marathas, two villages paying Rs. 503. In 1907-08 proprietors as such cultivated 22·76 per cent., occupancy and ex-proprietary tenants 29·67 per cent. and tenants-at-will 24·72 per cent. of the land. Fixed rate tenants held 21·67 per cent. of the holdings area, and the remainder was rent-free.

Thirty-three per cent. of the area included in holdings was sublet. There is very little land in Bhagwat which is grain-rented and the cash rates range from Rs. 8-13-1 for *shikmi* to Rs. 4-8-8 for fixed-rate tenants. Occupancy tenants pay Rs. 5-8-11 per acre and tenants-at-will Rs. 6-3-10.

There is no village in the pargana with a population exceeding two thousand souls, and the chief places in it are Jamalpur, 1,219 inhabitants; Latia Sahjani, 1,030; and Bhuili, from which the pargana derives its name, 1,791. Jamalpur and Bhuili are the chief market towns of the pargana, but most of the traffic available for export finds its way now to Narayanpur, where is situated the Ahraura Road railway station on the East Indian railway. This railway traverses the north-eastern portion of the pargana, and the road from Ahraura Road station to Ahraura bazar, which passes down the western side of the pargana, is metalled. The only other roads in the pargana are the unmetalled roads from Chunar to Ramnagar, Ramnagar to Chakia, and the small branch road from the metalled road at Narayanpur to Chhota Mirzapur. Lists of the schools, post-offices, fairs and markets of the pargana will be found in the appendix.

Beyond the tradition which makes the earliest inhabitants of Bhuili Seoris and tells of an immigration of Rajputs under one Bhuili Sirwa about 1000 A.D., there is little to be gleaned regarding the early history of the pargana. Its name is said to be derived from this chieftain, the reputed founder of Bhuili town: but General Cunningham suggests that it may be connected with Bhuiya, the name of an aboriginal tribe. The Seoris, however, were in all probability not the aboriginal inhabitants. These were Cheros who were driven out by the Seoris, the memory of the great conflict between them and the Cheros and their final victory and occupation of the lands of the vanquished still living in the memory of the people. According to Minhaj-i-Siraj, the author of the *Tabakat-i-Nasiri*, Bhuili or Bhiwali was, along with Bhagwat, conferred on Muhammad Bakhtiar Khilji. This is to a certain extent borne out by the tradition which attributes the conquest of the pargana to a governor of the fort of Chunar about the year 1194; and it is perhaps to Muhammad Bakhtiar Khilji that the conversion of the eastern Gaharwars

to Islam is due. The Gaharwars remained in possession of the pargana until the time of Balwant Singh, when the tract passed into the hands of the Benares house. At the time of the permanent settlement the revenue assessed on the pargana was Rs. 97,183. This was increased to Rs. 107,297 at the revision of 1842-43, chiefly owing to the assessment of lands that had escaped the earlier settlement. The present demand is Rs. 105,519-8-0, and an addition of Rs. 9,324-7-2 may be made to this on account of cesses. The incidence of the revenue falls at a rate of Rs. 2-12-3 per cultivated area.

The pargana does not form a separate subdivision for criminal or revenue purposes, being part of the Chunar tahsil. The jurisdiction in police matters belongs to the station at Chunar.

BIJAIGARH, *Pargana* BIJAIGARH, *Tahsil* ROBERTSGANJ.

The celebrated hill and fort of Bijaigarh lies in 24° 35′ N. and 83° 11′ E., at a distance of 60 miles south-east from Mirzapur, 12 miles south-east from Robertsganj, and 50 miles south-south-east from Chunar. The summit of the hill on which the fort is situated has a recorded height of 1,869 feet above the level of the sea, and it is some 800 feet higher than the tableland from which it rises. The position is one of great natural strength, the hill having a steep escarpment all round and being accessible only by two difficult passes. The approach from the side of Robertsganj is by a massive and evidently ancient bridge over the Gaghar river. This bridge bears an inscription recording its erection by Balwant Singh in *Sambat* 1829 or 1772 A.D. Probably the bridge was only restored by Balwant Singh; for the body of the work is manifestly much older and probably dates from the time of Sher Shah. The bridge consists of eleven arches, small in width and having massive piers between. It has a fortified gateway and is further protected by a square fort on an eminence close by which is connected with the bridge by a curtain wall. From the bridge the path to the fort rises some distance by an easy slope along which there are at intervals the remains of ancient outworks; it then suddenly rises by an abrupt ascent of some hundreds of feet through thick jungle to the entrance of the fort, which is formed by a triple gateway, apparently of Pathan construction, but which has

been subsequently restored in a poor fashion. The circumference of the hill within is nearly two miles; there is a continuous masonry rampart along it with circular bastions at irregular intervals and pierced for 15 guns.

The fort, like most of the strongholds which crown the natural fastnesses of the Kaimurs, is of uncertain foundation. Its construction is attributed to Asurs or demons. It was probably a stronghold of the Kols or other aborigines who held these parts. Two hostile demons, so the story runs, vowed to each other that whichever first built a fort should be the conqueror, and that the losing party should forfeit his life. They commenced their labours in the evening, one on Bijaigarh hill and the other on the top of Kandakot, a hill of similar shape about 12 miles to the west in pargana Barhar. The demon who was building on Bijaigarh, having lost his tools in the dark, struck a light to find them. His adversary, imagining that the fort was completed and that instant death awaited him, fled precipitately, while Bijaigarh fort was completed during the night. The fort is next found as the stronghold of the Baland Rajas and it passed with their kingdom into the hands of the Chandels of Agori-Barhar. But the local tradition assigns the designs and completion of the present works, exclusive of the later and less massive additions of Balwant Singh, to Sher Shah. There is a legend that the fort is connected by a subterranean passage with that of Rohtasgarh. On the dissolution of Sher Shah's empire the Chandels appear to have regained possession of the fort and to have held it till it was seized by Balwant Singh. Since the expulsion of Chet Singh, it has been the property of the Government.

Near the gateway of the fort is a tomb said to be that of Saiyid Zain-ul-Abdin, the Miran Sahib of local fame. There is a tradition that this miracle-working saint came here with Sher Shah and effected the capture of the fort by supernatural agency and without the loss of a man. Of the trees round his tomb, one is still pointed out as having sprung from the holy man's tooth-stick. Close by is a tablet set up by Balwant Singh bearing the date *Magh Sudi Panchami*, *Sambat* 1829, and the name of the governor Sri Kishan Pande. There is another ancient inscribed stone with uncertain date. Near the tomb of the Miran Sahib

is a tank known as the Miran Sagar and beyond this another called the Rama Sagar. Both are hewn out of the solid rock and never run dry. The Rama Sagar is still popularly supposed to have the greater part of Chet Singh's treasure reposing in its unknown depths. Between the two tanks is the *Rang mahal* or palace of Balwant Singh; and beyond the Rama Sagar another palace called, like that at Saktesgarh, *Shishmahal* or "house of glass." Neither of these buildings is in any way noteworthy and both are rapidly falling into decay. There is nothing else worthy of note except the postern-gate; this has a very steep descent leading from it, and is the way by which Chet Singh escaped before the fort was surrendered to Major Popham in 1781.

BIJAIGARH *Pargana, Tahsil* ROBERTSGANJ.

Bijaigarh is the north-eastern pargana of the tahsil and is bounded on the north by *taluqa* Naugarh of pargana Kera-Mangraur; on the east by the district of Shahabad in Bengal; on the south by the Son river; and on the west by parganas Agori and Barhar. The pargana has never been completely surveyed, the cadastral survey of 1885 having only included the portion lying below the Kaimurs or all but sixty-four villages; but the total area is returned at 465·9 square miles, that of the surveyed portion being, for the five years ending in 1907, 127,944 acres or 199·9 square miles.

Although the pargana is now treated as a single subdivision for all purposes, it is locally divided into five well-known but somewhat uncertainly defined *tappas*. Tappa Jasauli is the name given to the northern portion of the pargana, comprising the tract between the Karamnasa and Gurwat rivers, having the hills to the south and the *taluqa* of Naugarh to the north. Tappa Argarh lies at the foot of the Kaimur range, in the valley of the Son, on the northern bank of the river; and tappa Pahra or Bahram Pahar is the name given to the tableland situated east of Jasauli, entirely in the hills. *Taluqa* Sidhi, also known as the *bealis ilaqa*, is a group of 42 villages in the south-west of the pargana; while the central portion comprises tappa Bijaigarh. Of the total area of the pargana, 333·7 square miles or over two-thirds are recorded as barren waste, most of this being occupied by the steep and rugged hills of the Kaimur

range. "The lover of nature and the picturesque", writes Mr. Wynyard, "is as much gratified by some of the beautiful views which these hills afford as he is pained with the cheerless and barren look of the generality of the country in the plains, in which almost the only objects to relieve the eye from the barren wastes, in some places scantily covered with dried grass and generally full of holes, are a few plantations scattered over the country with a niggard hand, the isolated and fantastically shaped hill on which the fort of Bijaigarh stands, and the bold dark bluff of Mangesar (which latter are prominent and beautiful objects to the eye from almost every part of the pargana). The views of the valley of the Son from the top of the Kaimur range, which rises almost perpendicularly from the northern bank of that river, are perhaps superior in beauty to any which are to be found in this part of India." The soil in the Belan valley is fertile and similar in character to that of pargana Barhar; but in the hilly portions of the tract the soil is very poor in quality and difficult to plough. Here all the lands, except those in the immediate vicinity of the villages, are allowed to lie fallow for at least one year in three. As a general rule, the whole pargana is dependent for its supply of water on the monsoon rains, a proportionately small quantity of the land being irrigated. But the Belan valley is dotted with numerous tanks which are useful for the irrigation of rice and in which bumper *rabi* crops are produced. Both the Belan and the Ghaghar rivers rise in the pargana, the former in the lowlying country near Pannuganj and the latter in the Kaimur hills. The Karamnasa rises in the same range to the south-east and flows through the pargana from north to south. It has some tributaries but none of these streams are at present used for irrigation, though a scheme is under consideration for utilising the waters of the Karamnasa, which has been already described in Chapter II. Complete statistics are only available for the surveyed portion of the pargana. In these the average barren area recorded during the five years ending in 1907 was 21,460 acres or 16·77 per cent. of the whole. The culturable land amounted to 56,268 acres or 43·97 per cent., 21,294 acres being culturable waste and 20,216 acres old fallow. During the same period 50,216 acres or 39·25 per cent. were under the plough, 9,508 acres or 18·93 per cent. being irrigated nearly all from other sources than wells and tanks. The *kharif*

is the principal harvest, averaging 34,117 acres as against 29,399 acres sown in the *rabi*; while the area twice cropped within the year is 13,300 acres or 26·48 per cent. of the net cultivation. The chief crops grown in the autumn are rice, which covers 56·70 per cent. of the area cropped in the harvest, *til*, small pulses and maize. In the spring the largest areas are devoted to wheat, gram, the vetch *kirao*, and linseed.

The population of Bijaigarh in 1881 numbered 47,962 persons, and this rose to 53,149 in 1891. At the last enumeration in 1901 there were 47,054 inhabitants, of whom 24,530 were females. Classified according to religion there were 45,374 Hindus and 1,680 Musalmans. The pargana contained altogether 409 villages, at present comprised in 411 *mahals*. Of the latter 197 are in the hands of single *zamindars*; 44 are held in joint *zamindari*; while of the *pattidari* estates 7 were perfect and 163 imperfect *pattidari*. The largest landholders in the pargana are Chandel Rajputs, Gosains and Kurmis; while Brahmans, Rajputs, Kurmis, Chamars, Ahirs and aboriginal tribes constitute the bulk of the cultivating body. In 1907-08, in the surveyed portion of the pargana, proprietors as such cultivated 38·37 per cent.; occupancy and ex-proprietary tenants 7·27 per cent. and tenants-at-will 49·63 per cent. of the holdings area, the small remainder being either rent-free or in the hands of fixed-rate tenants. Only 8 per cent. of the area included in the holdings was sublet. The grain-rented area was large and amounted in that year to 11,989 acres. Cash rents ranged from Re. 1-15-11 per acre for tenants-at-will to Re. 0-9-1 for tenants at fixed rates; while *shikmi* tenants paid Re. 1-11-11 and occupancy tenants Re. 1-1-9 per acre.

There is no town in the pargana, nor is there any village in it with a population exceeding one thousand souls. Bijaigarh, which gives its name to the tract, is an insignificant village, and the same remark applies to Pannuganj, which is a small market town where there is a police station whose jurisdiction extends over nearly the whole pargana. The tract possesses one fair road which runs from Robertsganj to Kirhulia and then bifurcates into two branches, one leading to Rohtas and the other to Argarh and thence onwards to Dudhi. Lists of the schools, fairs, post-offices and markets in the pargana will be found in the appendix.

The fiscal history of pargana Bijaigarh is somewhat complicated but interesting. At the time of the general settlement in 1789-90, owing to the supposed impossibility of procuring the attendance of the actual proprietors or cultivators, called by Mr. Duncan "Bonwarrias," most of the pargana was farmed. In this manner 83 *mahals* were disposed of, while 42 others were settled with village *zamindars.* Mr. Roberts suggests that the difficulty of procuring the attendance of the proprietors was exaggerated by a designing *amil* whose interest it was to get possession as farmer. The fiscal history of the pargana and its tappas seems to have been to a certain extent separate and distinct. The descendant of the ancient Rajas of Bijaigarh was, at the time of Mr. Duncan's settlement, Prithipat; but the Benares Raja, Mahip Narayan Singh, preferred a claim to the *zamindari* of the whole pargana based on an alleged purchase of it 37 years before by his grandfather, Balwant Singh, from the then Raja Daljit Singh. The claim was disallowed by Mr. Duncan; and a counter-claim by the Raja of Bijaigarh was similarly rejected, but with permission to sue separately for each village. This the Raja proceeded to do, ultimately securing the proprietorship of 117 out of 165 *mahals.* At the revision of settlement in 1842-43 Mr. Wynyard refused to recognise the title of the Raja to the *zamindari* villages let in farm in 1789-90, preferring to him the descendants of the farmers when any were forthcoming. Much of the pargana was unsurveyed in 1842-43, and the report on the revision of settlement leaves it uncertain in whom the ownership of this part was vested; but a considerable enhancement of revenue was made owing to the settlement being unfettered by any pledge as to permanency in 1789-90 as regards the *mahals* which were then let in farm. The demand entered in the Duncan records is only Rs. 1,196-9-0, but this would seem to have been only the assessment on the 42 *mahals* in which *zamindari* tenure was recognised. In Mr. Wynyard's report the demand for 1790 is stated at Rs. 11,059-9-6, and this by 1842-43 had risen to Rs. 14,912-10-0. Mr. Wynyard fixed the demand at Rs. 14,348-5-0 and this became permanent.

Besides the 165 *mahals* above referred to, which were "subjected to chain measurement," there were other lands and villages not dealt with in 1842-43. Mr. Roberts was deputed in 1844-45 to

ascertain who was "considered to be the proprietor" of these tratcs. His enquiry embraced 73 villages in tappas Pahra and Argarh and *taluqa* Sidhi; and his report, submitted in 1847, is an interesting record of primitive rights in land and old customs. As in the case of Bijaigarh proper, a farm was, at Mr. Duncan's settlement, given of the Pahar tappa, and the farmer, Gur Baksh Singh, was a brother of the *amil* of Bijaigarh. This man died in 1797-98 and was succeeded by his son, Radhe Singh, who shortly afterwards absconded. In 1804 a farming lease was given to Fateh Bahadur, a mere child, on the representation of Sheonath Singh, his father, the son of the *amil*. In 1814 the Raja of Benares put forward a claim to the tappa, but failed to obtain possession. Nor was the Raja of Bijaigarh at that time more successful, although many years later his son obtained a decree against the lease-holder and the collector in the civil court. This was in 1839. Mr. Roberts reviews at length the procedure of the civil court and plainly states his opinion that the Raja was wrongly held entitled to the tappa. The decision, however, appears never to have been formally impugned, and all that Mr. Roberts could do was to enquire into the existence of subordinate rights, to the recognition of which the Raja's decree could be no bar. He found that the tappa had been from time immemorial divided into four *barhis* or *taluqas*, each of 12 villages, presided over by a *chaudhari*. Three of these were held by Kharwars and the fourth by a Chero. The last had lost his chieftainship, but the other three held their privileges in continuous succession from a long line of ancestors prior to the occupation of the pargana by the Chandel Rajas. Formerly no revenue was paid by these *chaudharis*, but some forest products seem to have been periodically tendered as an acknowledgment of the ruling power. This tribute consisted usually of 20 maunds of rice, 5 *sers* of *chironji*, a kid, a *charpai* or bedstead, and a ploughshare. A time, however, came when the ruling power insisted on some more substantial form of tribute, and revenue began to be demanded either during the last year of Chet Singh's administration or at the commencement of our own. The system adopted was for the *chaudhari* to collect the required sum from the villages subject to him, and he was permitted in return to enjoy his own village rent-free. In addition to the

Government demand the *chaudhari* received from each village a contribution of one rupee, 5 maunds of grain, one kid, and the services of the ryots when thatching his house, and the loan of their ploughs for one day in the year. These chaudhariships constituted in fact so many petty chieftaincies, presided over by a headman, whose brethren received one or two villages for maintenance when they separated from the chief's household. Mr. Roberts deplored the omission that had been made at the settlement of 1789-90 to discover and recognise these quasi-feudal rights, but he was powerless in 1846 to do more than give effect to them in subordination to the claims of the Raja. He distinguished two classes who had such rights, firstly, the *chaudharis*, who had the right of collecting from the village-holders according to the ascertained funds of the villages : on the villages themselves the *chaudhari* had a lien and if default of heirs of occupants occurred, the villages escheated to the *chaudharis* ; secondly the village-holders, who had the hereditary right of holding at a fixed rent, but no power of transfer. All Mr. Roberts found he could do was to place under each *chaudhari* one or two villages, the occupants of which, though they paid their rents direct to the Raja, had not discontinued the discharge of the customary dues to the *chaudharis ;* while in the cases where the connection between the village-holders and the *chaudharis* had ceased, provision could only be made to protect the rights of those that had hereditary claims. Tappa Argarh was first farmed, but the Raja of Bijaigarh appears to have obtained official recognition of his claim to the *zamindari* in 1836 on the slender ground that his ancestors in days of yore had a hunting seat at Argarh. The original settlers appear to have been Baigas, a few of whom acquired the management of individual villages, but none had claims similar to those of the Pahar *chaudharis*. There was only one village in *taluqa* Sidhi in which Mr. Roberts found a claim to sub-proprietary rights ; but these were not strong, and the whole *taluqa* had already been settled by Mr. Wynyard with the Babus of Sidhi as *zamindars.* The pargana is not a separate subdivision for revenue or criminal purposes, being a portion of the Robertsganj tahsil. In police matters the jurisdiction is divided between the stations at Robertsganj and Pannuganj.

BIJAIPUR, *Tappa* CHHIYANVE, *Tahsil* MIRZAPUR.

Bijaipur is an agricultural village in 25°8′N. and 82°24′E., distant 16 miles west-south-west from Mirzapur and three miles south-west from Gaipura railway station, with which it is connected by a metalled road. The village contains a post-office and an upper primary school. At the census of 1901 the inhabitants numbered 3,645 persons, of whom 1,634 were females: there were 2,465 Hindus and 999 Musalmans. The village site lies immediately below the scarp of the hills; and the ancestral home of the Rajas of Kantit is situated here.

BINDHACHAL, *Tappa* CHHIYANVE, *Tahsil* MIRZAPUR.

This is a large agricultural village distant only seven miles west from Mirzapur, with which it is connected by a metalled road: it lies in latitude 25°10′N. and longitude 82°31′E. The place contains a post-office, police station, pound, dispensary and school; but it is included in the area of the Mirzapur municipality and the number of the inhabitants is not separately recorded. The place is celebrated as containing the shrine of the goddess Vindhyeshwari Devi, which is visited by many thousands of pilgrims annually from all parts of India, especially central and southern India. The temple, which is built of stone, is of rectangular form, surrounded by a verandah, the whole encompassed by a flight of five steps. The roof is flat and the pillars that support it of plain and coarse workmanship. The image of the goddess is in an interior chamber of small size, the walls being constructed of large coarse stones. The head of the figure is of black stone with large eyes, the whites of which are formed of plates of burnished silver; and the feet rest on a black rat. The whole building must be one of great antiquity; and in former days the goddess was specially venerated by the thugs. On the river front is the *Devi ghat*—a fort-like structure adorned with six bastions, which juts out into the river and has a flight of about eighty steps. From this a long and narrow paved street leads to the temple, which is about half a mile distant.*

To the east of the site are the remains of the fort, from the neighbourhood of which, especially to the west, ancient relics have been found in great abundance. The old town of Bindhachal or

* Fanny Parkes: *Wanderings of a Pilgrim*: London, 1850, vol. II, pp. 448–454.

Vindhyachal, which is famous in the Puranas, is believed to have been included in the ancient city of Pampapura, to which these relics belong. Pampapura is supposed to have been an old Bhar city and to have covered several miles of area. Tradition says that this city once possessed 150 temples, all of which were destroyed by Aurangzeb.

CHAKIA, *Pargana* KERA-MANGRAUR, *Tahsil* CHAKIA.

Chakia, the capital town of pargana Kera-Mangraur, lies in 25°3′N. and 83°14′E. It now gives its name to the tahsil, which is composed of pargana Kera-Mangraur and *taluqa* Naugarh but is a village of recent origin, having been a mere hamlet till it was selected by Raja Udit Narayan as his own headquarters for purposes of sport and consequently, for greater convenience, for the offices of his revenue officials : these had formerly been located at Sikandarpur. The site of the place lies in the plain just at the foot of the Vindhyan hills, about a mile west of the Karamnasa river and 44 miles east of Mirzapur. Unmetalled roads lead from it to Ahraura, to Chainpur in Shahabad and to Ramnagar, the Raja's residence in Benares. At Chakia itself the Raja has a shooting lodge, to which are attached a handsome masonry tank and some well-kept gardens. The place also contains a tahsil for the collection of the Maharaja's revenues, police station, pound, sub-registrar's office, post-office and school. The population of the place numbered 2,134 souls in 1891, but it has since then considerably declined. In 1901 there were only 1,603 inhabitants, 409 being Musalmans. The numerically strongest caste among the Hindus was that of Kumhars. The only industry in the place is that of sugar-refining on a small scale.

Chakia is some 8 miles from the falls of Karamnasa, where is situated the tomb of Latif Sah, a celebrated local saint.

CHAKIA *Tahsil*.

The tahsil is conterminous with the pargana of Kera-Mangraur, and all details regarding it will be found in the article on that pargana.

CHAURASI *Tappa, Tahsil* MIRZAPUR.

Tappa Chaurasi is the eastern subdivision of the Mirzapur or *sadr* tahsil, and is bounded on the east by *taluqa* Saktesgarh ; on

the south by pargana Barhar; on the west by tappas Upraudh and Chhiyanve; and on the north by the Ganges river. Like parganas Ahraura and Bhagwat, tappa Chaurasi lies partly on the Vindhyan plateau and partly in the valley of the Ganges, so that the country has widely different characteristics. The portion lying above the *ghats* is drained by the Bakhar river and is uneven and stony, the soil being generally a stiff ferruginous clay or a coarse lateritic gravel overlying the rocky substratum in a thin superficial layer. The lowland differs in no respect from similarly situated country on the south bank of the Ganges in the district. The soil is clay, loam or sand according to its position and is thickly populated and cultivated; while two streams, the Khajuri and Dahwa, carry off the drainage of the hills through it to the Ganges. Both these streams take their rise in the hilly country lying between the Vindhyans and the plain. This intermediate portion of the tappa is rocky, undulating and clad with scrub jungle. There is little cultivation in it and it forms an ideal ground for the manœuvring of troops, advantage of which has been taken for several years to hold military camps of exercise at Barkachha. The total area of the tappa, according to the returns for the five years ending in 1907, is 213,355 acres or 333 square miles. Of this, 40,845 acres or 19·14 per cent. are barren, 23,181 acres or 10·87 per cent. being barren waste unfit for cultivation, and the remainder covered with water, sites, roads, buildings and the like. The culturable area is returned at 91,271 acres or 42·78 per cent. of the whole, 28,548 acres being land fit for but out of cultivation and the rest either old or new fallow or land covered with groves. The area under the plough during the same period has amounted to 81,239 acres or 38·08 per cent. of the total area, and of this only 8,822 acres or 10·85 per cent. are normally irrigated, nearly the whole being supplied from wells. The *kharif* is the principal harvest and covers normally some 52,349 acres against 40,836 sown in the *rabi*. Rice occupies some 23·79 per cent., *bajra*, alone or in combination with *arhar*, 21·54 per cent. and *juar*, alone or similarly combined, 19·84 per cent. of the area sown in the autumn; while in the spring 27·99 per cent. of the area is covered with barley and gram intermixed, and 17·47 per cent. with barley alone, the remaining principal crops being wheat, linseed and peas. The system of cultivation does not differ from that found in

similarly situated subdivisions of the district and in the lowlands is generally high-class; on the uplands it is limited by the nature of the soil and is poorer. The area twice-cropped within the year averages 12,224 acres or 15·05 per cent. of the net cultivation, this proportion being almost exactly that of the whole Mirzapur tahsil.

The chief cultivating castes are Rajputs, Brahmans, Kewats, Kurmis, Ahirs and Chamars, while there are also Rajputs and Kols, the last being found for the most part in the southern portion of the pargana. Over 27 per cent. of the land in 1907-08 was included in proprietary holdings, either as *sir* or *khudkasht*, 19·74 per cent. was held by tenants at fixed rates, 15·91 per cent. by ex-proprietary or occupancy tenants, and 35·67 per cent. by tenants-at-will; the remainder, a little over one per cent., was rent-free. Some 28 per cent. of the land included in holdings was sublet, this being somewhat above the tahsil average but well below that of tappa Kon or *taluqa* Majhwa. There were 2,850 acres which were grain-rented, consisting generally of poor land on the outskirts of cultivation on the Vindhyan tableland, where none but the poorest crops can be grown; the recorded rent was but Rs. 41. The average cash rental at the present time ranged from Rs. 6-2-3 per acre for *shikmi* tenants to Rs. 3-4-10 for tenants holding at fixed rates and Rs. 3-15-6 for those with rights of occupancy. Tenants-at-will pay but Rs. 3-0-11 per acre, but, as is often the case, they generally hold the worst land, all that of a superior quality having been appropriated either as *sir* or by the old statutory tenants.

Tappa Chaurasi is permanently settled, the demand imposed at the settlement in 1795 being Rs. 90,961-0-3. In 1907-08 the revenue stood at Rs. 97,171-14-6, the addition being due to the resumption of revenue free land, assessment on new alluvium and similar accounts. To this sum may be added Rs. 13,907-15-6 on account of cesses. There are 378 villages in the tappa and these are divided into 517 *mahals.* Of the latter 165 are in the hands of single *zamindars*; 145 are held in joint *zamindari* and 207 in *pattidari* tenure, all but four of the last being of the imperfect form. Of the various proprietary castes, Gaharwar Rajputs hold 75,191 acres; while after them come Gosains, 16,816 acres, and Kurmis,

14,349 acres; smaller areas are held by Chandel Rajputs and Bhuinhars. The largest landholder in the tappa is the Raja of Kantit, who owns practically the whole of the area recorded in the name of Gaharwars. Mahant Anand Gir holds fifteen villages assessed to Rs. 5,190; Pandit Gaya Prasad, Pande, eleven villages paying Rs. 916; Babu Beni Madho Das ten villages with a demand of Rs. 2,029; and Saiyid Abdul Ghafur eight villages, the revenue being Rs. 1,056.

The population of tappa Chaurasi in 1881 numbered 153,447 souls, and this fell to 120,197 in 1891. At the last census the number had decreased to 118,412, of whom 59,941 were females; while of the whole 108,973 were Hindus, 9,118 Musalmans and 321 persons of other religions. The only town in the pargana is the municipality of Mirzapur, the headquarters town of the district, and besides this there are no large or important villages. The tappa is generally well supplied with means of communication. The East Indian railway cuts across the northern portion and there are no less than four stations within its limits, namely Dagmagpur, Pahari, Jhingura and Mirzapur Khas. Metalled roads run from Mirzapur south-east to Mariahan, to Drummondganj and Rewah, to Bindhachal and to Bhatauli ghat on the road to Mirzapur, while there are several shorter metalled roads, such as those between Itwan, Barkachha and Jhingura station, and between Mohanpur and Pahari station, which is prolonged to Kathnehi ghat on the Ganges. The unmetalled road from Mirzapur to Chunar closely follows the alignment of the railway; and in the south the metalled road to Mariahan gives place to two unmetalled roads, one leading to Hindubari near Roberstganj and the other joining at Kalwari the road which leads from Lalganj to Ghorawal. The passage of the river is effected by means of several ferries, a list of which will be found in the appendix. There too are given lists of the schools, markets, fairs and post-offices of the tappa.

The name *Chaurasi* means eighty-four. Similar groups of 84 villages are to be found in many districts of the province and are usually in the hands of Rajput clans. In the *Ain-i-Akbari* the tappa is not separately mentioned, being included in the pargana of Kantit. It is not known how or when the group of 84 villages came to be regarded as a separate subdivision, but it appears to

have been originally held by Gaharwar Rajputs. It does not form a separate revenue or criminal subdivision, being merged for these purposes in the tahsil of Mirzapur. In police matters the jurisdiction is divided between the stations of Pahari, Mariahan, Halia, Lalganj, Chunar, and the *sadrkotwali* at Mirzapur.

CHHIYANVE *Tappa, Tahsil* MIRZAPUR.

Tappa Chhiyanve is the north-western subdivision of the Mirzapur tahsil, being bounded on the west by the Allahabad district; on the north by the river Ganges; on the east by tappa Chaurasi; and on the south by tappa Upraudh. The tappa lies entirely below the Vindhyan tableland, its southern boundary being formed by the line of the *ghats*; but there are several isolated flat-topped outliers in it, the most important being that near Bijaigarh and that on which the Ashtbhuja temples are situated. In the neighbourhood of these and generally to the south of the tappa, the soil is uneven and stony; but elsewhere it is the ordinary Gangetic alluvium, consisting of sand and clay in varying proportions. The only drainage channel in the tappa is the Karnauti *nala*, an intermittent stream, one arm of which serves to carry off the drainage of the hills to the east of Bijaipur, while the other flows in from the Allahabad district.

The area of the tappa varies to some extent from year to year owing to changes in the course of the Ganges, so that a better idea of its total area wlll be gained by taking the average of a series of years rather than the statistics of à single year. Thus for the five years ending in 1907 the total area was on an average 99,492 acres or 155 square miles. Of this, 24,941 acres or 25·07 per cent. were recorded as barren, 13,129 acres being waste unfit for cultivation and the remainder covered with water or occupied by sites, roads, buildings and the like. The culturable area out of cultivation amounted to 21,917 acres or 22·03 per cent. of the whole, 14,960 acres being old or new fallow and but 3,871 acres waste-land fit for the plough. During the same period the cultivated area averaged 52,634 acres or 52·90 per cent. There is very little irrigation carried on in the tappa, the quinquennial average being only 3,602 acres or 6·84 per cent. of the area under the plough; but owing to its low-lying position the crops are in many villages

well supplied with moisture by capillary attraction and artificial irrigation is little needed. The system of cultivation does not differ from that in the Gangetic valley generally but, as in tappa Kon and *taluqa* Majhwa, the *rabi* in Chhiyanve is the principal harvest and covers on an average 31,449 acres as against 25,581 sown in the *kharif*. Gram is the principal crop in the spring, occupying 26·23 per cent. of the area sown in the harvest, and it is closely followed by barley intermixed with gram, which covers 25·08 per cent., while barley alone is sown in an additional 18·87 per cent. Wheat, intermixed either with barley or gram, covers 13·29 per cent. of the *rabi* area, and the other chief crops are wheat alone, peas and linseed. Only 6·12 per cent. of the autumn harvest is devoted to rice, and the principal crop sown is *bajra*, alone or intermixed with *arhar*. This covers 48·71 per cent. of the area sown in this harvest, and after it comes *juar*, alone or similarly combined, 27·64 per cent. The area twice-cropped in the year normally amounts to 4,476 acres or 8·50 per cent. of the net cultivation. Among the cultivators Rajputs predominate, but Brahmans are numerous, and there is the usual proportion of low castes, chief among which are Kewats and Chamars. Some 17·76 per cent. of the land was in 1907-08 included in proprietary holdings, whether as *sir* or *khudkasht*, 37·35 per cent. was held by tenants at fixed rates, 19·35 per cent. by ex-proprietary or occupancy tenants, and 24·26 by tenants-at-will; the remainder was rent-free. Over 29 per cent. of the land included in holdings was sublet, a proportion which closely approaches that of tappa Chaurasi but is far behind that of tappa Kon or *taluqa* Majhwa. Only 70 acres were grain-rented, and the average cash rental ranged from Rs. 8-0-2 per acre for *shikmi* tenants to Rs. 4-1-5 for tenants at fixed rates. Occupancy tenants paid a rate of Rs. 4-7-2 and tenants-at-will of Rs. 4-10-9 per acre.

At the permanent settlement tappa Chhiyanve was settled at Rs. 1,00,572-14-0, this sum including the *jagir* or *malikana* of Rs. 37,500 granted by Warren Hastings to Raja Gobind Singh of Kantit. This allowance was afterwards exchanged for the Bijaipur *taluqa* which was held free of revenue by Raja Gobind Singh and Ramghulam Singh, but was resumed at the latter's death and regularly settled with his son, Raja Mahipal Singh.

The present demand on the pargana is Rs. 80,787-0-6, and to this an addition of Rs. 10,584-3-0 may be made on account of cesses. There are 269 villages in the tappa, and these are subdivided into 386 *mahals*. Of the latter, 230 are in the hands of single *zamindars*, 22 are held in joint *zamindari* and 24 in *pattidari* tenure, all but 5 of the latter being in the imperfect form. The bulk of the pargana is in the hands of Gaharwar Rajputs, represented by the Raja of Kantit, whose estate is at present under the court of wards, while smaller areas are owned by Bhuinhars, Gosains and Kurmis. The next largest proprietor is Babu Beni Madho Das of Mirzapur, who pays a demand of Rs. 4,009 on six villages. The population of Chhiyanve in 1881 numbered 72,345 persons, and this fell to 69,237 in 1891. At the last census there were 67,690 persons in the tappa, of whom 31,047 were females. Classified according to religion there were 72,982 Hindus, 4,703 Musalmans and five persons of other religions. Excluding Bindhachal, the population of which is included in the municipality of Mirzapur, there are several large and important villages in the tappa. The chief of these are Akorhi, a large market town with 4,408 inhabitants; Birohi, which is near it and has a railway station; Bijaipur, where the Raja of Kantit has his seat; and Gaura, an agricultural estate on the banks of the Ganges. The East Indian railway runs across the centre of the pargana and has stations at Bindhachal, Birohi, Gaipura and Jigna. The only metalled roads in the pargana are the short roads from Mirzapur to Bindhachal, from Kantit to Ashtbhuja, and from Gaipura station to Bijaipur. There is an unmetalled road following the railway which leads to Allahabad and another which runs from Gaipura station to the Rampur-Amlaur *ghat* on the Ganges. From here there is metalled communication with Gopiganj on the grand trunk road. The passage of the river is effected by several other ferries, all of which are leased from the Bhadohi side; a list will be found in the appendix. There also are given lists of the schools, fairs, markets and post-offices of the tappa.

In the days of Akbar, tappa Chhiyanve was not a separate subdivision, being included in pargana Kantit. It is not known how or when it became a separate subdivision but the word means ninety-six, and the origin of the tappa was probably due, like that of

Chaurasi, to a grant of villages to Gaharwar Rajputs. It does not form a separate subdivision at the present day for either criminal or revenue purposes, being included in the tahsil Mirzapur. In police matters the jurisdiction is divided between the stations at Bindhachal, Gaipura, and the *sadrkotwali* at Mirzapur.

CHHOTA MIRZAPUR, *Pargana* BHUILI, *Tahsil* CHUNAR.

Chhota Mirzapur or Little Mirzapur is a small agricultural village and market town situated on the banks of the Ganges close to the Benares border. It lies in latitude 25°14′N. and longitude 83°4′ E., at a distance of 31 miles north-east from Mirzapur and 10 miles north-east from Chunar. It is connected with Chakia by one and with Tidwa by another unmetalled road. At the latter place the road joins the metalled road between Ahraura and Ahraura-Road railway station. Owing to its situation as the river terminus of the direct road to Benares city *via* Ahraura from the south, much traffic was in olden days put on boats at Chhota Mirzapur but now the place has little trade, though market is held daily. There is a ferry over the river at this point. The place contains a police station, pound, post-office and lower primary school. It must not be confounded with a ward in Mirzapur city, which is also known Chhota Mirzapur. In 1901 the population of the place numbered 1,204 persons, 1,085 being Hindu and 119 Musalmans.

CHIL *vide* BARA.

CHOPAN, *Pargana* AGORI, *Tahsil* ROBERTSGANJ.

This village is a small one and lies in 24°·31′N. and 83°2′E. It is distant 62 miles south-east from Mirzapur and 13 miles south from Robertsganj, being prettily situated on the south bank of the Son at the point where the direct route from Chunar to Sarguja crosses the river. The road from Chopan to Ahraura is a second-class unmetalled road, but to the south there are nothing but jungle tracks. The village contained in 1901 a population of only 327 souls, and consists merely of a collection of mud huts. There are however a *sarai*, which is little used, a police station, post-office, and an aided school in the place; and it is a favourite camping-ground on the route between Robertsganj and the Sonpar country.

CHUNAR, *Pargana* HAVELI CHUNAR, *Tahsil* CHUNAR.

The celebrated fortress and town of Chunar lies in latitude 25°·7′N. and longitude 82°·54′E., at a distance of 21 miles from Mirzapur and 19 miles from Benares. This is the headquarters town of the pargana and tahsil of the same name, and has a railway station on the East Indian railway lying about two miles south-west of the town. The place is situated on the southern bank of the Ganges, and roads lead from it to Benares, Ahraura, Rajgarh, Mirzapur and Kachhwa, all of which are unmetalled; while the passage of the river is effected by means of ferries.

The Chunar municipality and cantonments.

The municipality of Chunar, which was first constituted as such in 1868 and existed until the year 1904, comprised a large area lying on either side of the bold, fortress-crowned rock which played so important a part in the struggles of the Pathans and Mughals during the sixteenth century. To the east lay the native town spread over the village of Aibakpur, Bharpura, Saddupur and Kamanpur; while to the west the boundaries included portions of the villages of Nagarpur, Sarayan Tikaur, Usmanpur, Dargah Shuja'at-pur and Bahramganj, with two isolated, rocky hills known as Godo or Gadda and Tendua. The intrusion of the rock divided the area into two almost exactly equal parts, joined by a narrow strip of land, known, from the south-western bastion of the fort, as Bhairon Burj and lying between the Jirgo river and the foot of the hill. Along the banks of the Ganges, to the north-east of the native town, lay the old settlement, the station of the invalid soldiers of the East India Company's regiments, which together with the fort was administered as a military cantonment. The fort was until the year 1890 garrisoned by a force of some 250 troops: but in that year all the troops were withdrawn, the area ceased to be administered as a cantonment, and the cantonment funds were handed over to the district magistrate, being administered by him direct as the Chunar cantonment *nazul* fund. In 1904 a change was made in the constitution of the municipality. The provisions of the United Provinces Municipalities Act (I of 1900) as a whole were withdrawn from the area and the levy of octroi dues was discontinued. The portion lying west of the hill, being merely agricultural land with scattered homesteads and a population of but 1,635 souls, was held to require

no local administration, and instead of remaining a municipality the eastern half of the town, stretching from the cantonment boundary on the east to the foot of the rock and Bhairon Burj on the west, and from the Ganges in the north to the Jirgo river on the south, was declared a notified area under Act I of 1900, selected clauses only of the Act being extended to it. At the same time the old municipal board was replaced by a committee consisting of the district magistrate as chairman and the subdivisional magistrate of the Chunar tahsil, the tahsildar of Chunar and two residents of the town, nominated by the Government, as members. Instead of octroi, a direct tax is now levied on all persons residing or carrying on any trade or profession, or owning property within the limits of the notified area, according to their circumstances and property, subject to a minimum payment of 12 annas and a maximum of Rs. 120 per annum. This produces a sum of about Rs. 3,900 yearly, and is supplemented by the fees paid by licensed weighmen, the rents of lands and houses, fines, pound receipts and other miscellaneous items to the extent of some Rs. 1,600, the total income aggregating about Rs. 5,500. The bulk of this sum is expended in conservancy and lighting, the remainder being absorbed by contributions to dispensaries and schools, charges of collections and contingencies. The following year saw the conversion of the old Chunar cantonments, including the fort, into a second notified area under the name of the Chunar settlement. As has already been explained, the local administration of this area was from 1890 carried on by the district magistrate. The income was derived exclusively from the rents of houses and lands and its amount was incorporated in the district provincial budget. The arrangement, however, was found to be extremely inconvenient, and in April 1905 the sanction of the Local Government was obtained to the conversion of the cantonment into a notified area under Act I of 1900. Its affairs are now administered by a committee, consisting of the district magistrate as chairman, and the subdivisional officer of the Chunar tahsil, the tahsildar of Chunar, the superintendent of the reformatory school, and one citizen, nominated by the Government, as members. No tax is levied, the rents of houses and lands, which aggregate some Rs. 2,000 yearly, sufficing for the needs of the settlement.

The native town, which now forms the notified area of Chunar, lies immediately to the east of the fort, the houses stretching up a portion of the slope of the hill. It is a fairly large town which is traversed from east to west by a broad thoroughfare, leading from the Lal Darwaza up to the fort gate. The Mirzapur road runs in on the west at Bhairon Burj and pierces the heart of the city, running past the mission church to the tahsil and onwards to Ramnagar. The place where this intersects the *Lal Darwaza* road is, as usual, called the *chauk*, and is the chief market place of the town. The principal shops, with handsome stone built fronts, lie along the *Lal Darwaza* road; and elsewhere scattered about the town are many houses, built of stone, generally in rough blocks. But everywhere are now to be seen tumbled-down and decaying habitations, whose ruinous condition is due to the decrease in population and prosperity which set in when the fort and cantonments were abandoned by the military authorities. Chunar contains no striking buildings except the church. This was built, soon after the Church Missionary Society established itself in the place about 1815, by the Revd. Mr. Bowley, a missionary of great earnestness and zeal, who died after thirty years of labour in the east in 1843. His grave is in the new cemetery, just in front of the turnstile entrance. The church is dedicated to the Holy Trinity and has a tall Gothic steeple which is a conspicuous feature in the landscape. There are also a Roman Catholic and an American Methodist chapel in the town. Outside, near the *Lal Darwaza*, on a well raised site is an old *sarai*. The *Jama Masjid* situated in *muhalla* Mochitola is a building of no note; but another mosque known as the *Migam Muazzin* is alleged to contain a box which holds the cast-off apparel of Hussain and Hasan. These garments are said to have been brought from Karbela in the reign of Farrukhsiyar. The idol of Bhairon which was once inside the fort is now to be seen in a building near the present post-office; and the only other interesting place is the temple of Gangeshwar Nath which contains an ancient image of Mahadeo. The public buildings comprise a tahsil, dispensary, hospital for Europeans, first-class police station, combined post and telegraph office and secondary school. The first three lie beyond the actual limits of the notified area in the settlement, where there is also The town.

a diocesan school; the other three are situated in the centre of the town. The site is well drained by channels running either into the Ganges or the Jirgo; and although the climate is hot, it is extremely healthy, Chunar being largely used as a health resort by well-to-do Bengalis at the time of the Durga Puja festival. The population of the notified area as now constituted is 8,291 souls; but owing to the fact that its area was only separated from that of the old municipality after the census figures of 1901 had been compiled, no further details of the composition of the population can be given. Some idea of the changes that have taken place, however, can be gained from a statement of the available returns relating to the old municipality. In 1872 the latter contained 10,154 inhabitants, and this rose to 12,524 in 1881. At the following enumeration the number fell to 11,421; and in 1901 there was a further large decline to 9,926. Of these 7,199 were Hindus, 2,470 Musalmans and 251 Christians, the remainder being Aryas and Sikhs. The population is for the most part agricultural in character or engaged in domestic service and general labour. A few are artizans, but the only industries of the place are the manufacture of the red, unglazed pottery, already described in Chapter II, and stone-quarrying or cutting.

The settlement.

The Chunar settlement, which with the fort forms a distinct notified area, immediately adjoins the town on the north-east. It contains the houses occupied by the descendants of old soldiers formerly in the service of the East India Company; for Chunar was for many years the principal invalid station for European troops in northern India. The settlement is prettily situated among trees and gardens, between which and the river lies a narrow parade ground, surrounded by an old racecourse, which forms a pleasant precinct to the town on this side.

The Fort.

The fort covers the crest and sides of a large and high sandstone rock, an outlier of the Vindhyan range, which juts out into the Ganges and deflects the river to the north. It lies nearly north and south, 800 yards long, 133 to 300 broad and 80 to 175 feet above the level of the surrounding country, the circumference being about 2,400 yards. The view from the river is very striking, and the position is like that of some old feudal castle on the Rhine. There are successive enclosures of walls and towers, the lowest of

which have their base washed by the Ganges; but these have now fallen greatly into decay. The top of the rock is bounded on every side by a sheer escarpment flanked, wherever it has been possible to obtain an angle, with towers and bastions of various sizes. The existing fortifications were for the most part constructed by the Musalmans, apparently from materials obtained by pulling down still older Hindu buildings; but they are now crumbling into ruin, and all the cannon which were once mounted on them have been removed. Within the ramparts is a considerable space covered for the most part with grass; but there are several interesting buildings. In the southern portion of the fortress is situated a large solid stone powder magazine with an arched roof; this is surrounded by a masonry wall, the whole having been built according to an inscription by "Captain Thomas Gardiner, Engineer, in 1780," On the summit of the rock, in the last enclosure of the fortress, is an old Hindu marriage hall, a central dome surrounded by several vaulted apartments with remains of painting and carving. On one side of this is a lofty building formerly used as a residence by the Musalman governors and subsequently as an armoury. In front of the Hindu marriage hall, in the pavement of the court, are seen four small round holes, just large enough for a man to pass through, below which is the state prison of ancient times. But the greatest curiosity of the place is the shrine of Bhartri Nath supposed to have been a brother of the great Vikramaditya of Ujjain. It is one of the most sacred places in India; but the only object to be seen is a large slab of black basalt. On this stone Hindus believe that God is seated, personally though invisibly, for nine hours every day, removing for the other three hours to Benares. On this account it is thought that Chunar can never be taken by an enemy except between the hours of six and nine in the morning; and for the same reason the Rajas of Benares are said to have had all the marriages of their family celebrated in the adjoining palace. Near the northern extremity of the fort, just inside the outermost wall, are a number of steps leading down to a place in which the European soldiers used to bathe during the rainy season when the water rose with the rising of the Ganges. The old state prison is a solid masonry structure, enclosed on three sides by high walls, while in front is a cheval-de-frise to

admit of ventilation in the yard. It was used as a place of confinement for state prisoners from 1815 A.D. onwards, the first important person incarcerated here being Trimbakji Dainglia, long the inveterate enemy of the British power and the fomenter of all the trouble in the Deccan in 1817-18. Others were Nawab Munna Jan and the Badshah Begam of Oudh, who were deported here in 1837, the former dying at Chunar in 1842; Hakim Sarwar Shah of Tonk; and the four Bahrein Chiefs, Sheikh Muhammad bin Khalifa, Sheikh Muhammad bin Abdulla, Sheikh Ali bin Nasir, Jasim bin Hasan; and the wife of Ranjit Singh. The western gate of the fort was built in 981 *Hijri* or 1574 A.D., in the reign of Akbar, and has several inscriptions in Persian. Inside the inner portal of the eastern gate is the guard-room, off which there is a small room bearing an inscription recording its construction in the reign of Jehangir. This is situated on the verge of a mammoth well, 28½ feet in diameter and 132 feet deep, excavated from the solid rock and having steps leading down almost to the bottom of the well. At the south-west corner of the fort lies the Alamgiri Masjid; it was built at the request of the emperor Aurangzeb in 1080 *Hijri* under the supervision of Mirza Bahadur. The old governor's house, which was also called the Barahdari, is still standing and was once occupied by Warren Hastings, his occupation being commemorated by a tablet fixed in the wall by the order of Lord Curzon. Near it is a sundial bearing the inscription :—" Erected by order of The Honourable Warren Hastings, Esq., Governor General, &c. &c., in 1784. Latitude 25° 07′36″N. and longitude 83° 09′ 15″E., from Greenwich. James S. Ewart, Lieutenant." The present hospital, the old state prison, bears the inscription, " This compound, with the inner buildings, was built in the time of Nawab Imad-ud-daula, under the supervision of Colonel Jaladat Jang Baksh and the superintendnt Bahram Jang Bahadur, in the year 1197 *Hijri*". The principal buildings in the fort were, after the abandonment of the place by the military authorities, converted into a convalescent jail for prisoners, and from August 1902 they have been used as a reformatory school for juvenile offenders.

History.

The fancied resemblance of the fort to a gigantic footstep, with the toes and ball of the foot projecting into the river and the heel on the landside, has, it is said, given Chunar its name, which

is compounded of the Sanskrit words *charan adri* or footstep hill. Tradition asserts that it is the veritable footstep of some giant of the *Dwapir Yug* who in stepping from the Himalayas to Cape Comorin rested his foot upon this hill and impressed it with his mark. In more recent times it is said that Bhartri Nath, brother of the half-historic Vikramaditya of Ujjain, having embraced the habit and profession of a *Jogi*, selected as his place of retirement the rock of Chunar. Vikramaditya is said to have discovered the hiding place of his brother by the aid of a certain holy hermit named Goraknath, and to have visited Chunar and built for his brother a residence—he in his religious absorption having neglected to provide any shelter for himself. And a variant of the legend, already given, states that it is the saint, not God himself, who is invisibly seated on the black stone in the shrine on the summit of the hill. The next name connected with the fort is that of a certain Prithvi-raj, who is reported to have effected a settlement in this part of the country and to have brought under his rule a number of the surrounding villages. After his death the country is said to have been taken from his successors by one Khair-ud-din Subuktagin. It appears, however, from a mutilated Sanscrit inscription over the gateway of the fort that the place was again recovered by one Swami Raja, who put up the stone to commemorate the event. The fort was finally acquired by the Muhammadans in the time of Shahab-ud-din, who appointed a certain Sanidi, an African, and a Bahelia, with the title of *hazari*, to be governors of the fort, at the same time conferring on them a *jagir* of twenty-seven villages, known as *taluqa* Khair-ud-din. The command of the fort is said to have remained in the Bahelia family through all its succeeding vicissitudes and until its final rendition to the British in 1772. The present representative of the family lives in a ruinous house under the shadow of the ramparts; but the exact nature of the office held by his ancestors is not known, for the governors in historical times were certainly Musalmans. Chunar did not become a fortress of first class importance till the sixteenth century, during the struggles of the Pathans and Mughals for the mastery of the east, of which it was regarded as the key. Babar visited the place in 1529 A.D., and owing to the number of wild beasts that infested the neighbourhood lost many of his soldiers; those men were subsequently

venerated as martyrs and their tombs are still to be found scattered about the neighbourhood. Sher Khan Sur, afterwards the emperor Sher Shah, obtained possession of the fort by marrying the wife of a deceased governor and for some time resided in it. He built the Turkish bath (*hamam*) and armoury (*silahkhana*). He refused to give it up to Humayun in 1536, whereupon Humayun besieged it for six months, ultimately succeeding in capturing it by means of a floating battery built high enough to command the fortifications.* But as soon as he had continued his advance into Bengal, it fell into the hands of Sher Khan again; and it was not until 1575 A.D. that it was recovered by the armies of Akbar. The latter visited Chunar and hunted the buffalo and other beasts in the neighbourhood; he also built the water-gate in 1586 A. D. that being the date engraved on the stone archway. Henceforth until about 1750 A. D. it remained in the hands of the Mughals. The emperor Jahangir appointed one Iftikhar Khan as *nazim*; and in the reign of Aurangzeb one of the governors was Mirza Bairam Khan, who built a mosque in 1663 A. D., near the Bhairon Burj. At the disruption of the empire the fort fell into the hands of the Nawab Wazir of Oudh and through all the subsequent aggressions and intrigues it was the one place which Balwant Singh was not able, or did not dare, to reduce into his possession. In 1764 an unsuccessful attack was made on it by the British troops under Major Munro. Two assaults failed and the siege was turned into a blockade, which, however, was abandoned owing to the threatening attitude of Shuja-ud-daula. The fort was again invested the following year. On this occasion, after an unsuccessful night attack, a breach was effected in the south-western rampart from batteries erected on Gadda hill, and the garrison surrendered. The same year the fort was exchanged for that of Allahabad; but in 1772 it was formally ceded to the East India Company, who established in it a depôt for artillery and ammunition. After Chet Singh's outbreak in 1781, Warren Hastings retired for safety to Chunar, where a force was collected under Major Popham, which expelled Chet Singh from his strongholds in the neighbourhood. Hastings liked the situation and climate. His residence is still standing. In

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* E. H. I, Vol. V, pp. 139 foll.

1791 fort Chunar became the headquarters of the invalid battalion of European and native troops serving in India, all officers and men who were unfit for field service being sent here for light duty, though they drew pay and allowances as effective soldiers. The last of these invalid soldiers who remained in India only died in 1903, and since his death the invalid battalion barrack has been used as a station library. From 1815 onwards the fort was used as a place of confinement for state prisoners, as already explained. During the Mutiny, it was garrisoned by the artillery and infantry company of the European Invalid Battalion; and all the district officers and European residents of Mirzapur, except Mr. St. George Tucker, the collector, at one time sought refuge in it, the enclosure of Bhartrinath's shrine being used as a civil treasury. No attack, however, was made by the rebels on the fort. It was garrisoned until the year 1890, when the troops were finally withdrawn, the buildings in the fort being handed over to the charge of the civil authorities, to be used first as a convalescent jail and subsequently as a reformatory school.

Dargah of Shah Qasim Sulaimani

About half a mile to the south-west of the fort is situated the tomb or *dargah* of Shah Qasim Sulaimani. It is a building of considerable architectural pretensions. The saint whose remains are here interred is said to have been an Afghan by birth and to have lived during the reigns of Akbar and Jahangir, the date of his birth being given as 956 *Hijri* or 1549 A. D., and the place Peshawar. Losing parents, wife and child at the age of twenty-seven, he betook himself to a holy life, and set out to visit the sacred places at Mecca and Medina. The prestige gained by his pilgrimage procured him on his return a considerable following of disciples, and he unfortunately excited the anger of the usuall tolerant Akbar by declining to subscribe to that monarch'sy views on religion. During Akbar's reign he was not molested further than having his place of residence fixed at Lahore; but on the accession of Jahangir his enemies represented to the king the danger of allowing Shah Qasim to attract so large a number of followers. At first Jahangir appears to have contemplated punishing the saint with death, as he had done in the case of others in Lahore who were suspected of favouring the claims of Sultan Khusroo. Better counsels

prevailing, Shah Sulaimani was sent a prisoner to Chunar in 1015 *Hijri* or 1606 A.D., where he died in the following year. His disciples erected a mausoleum to his memory and his two sons were installed as chief attendants. The process of canonization was now complete, and Jahangir himself recognized the sanctity of the shrine by a grant to the saint's son of thirty *bighas* of land in the adjacent village of Tikaur. One of these sons, Shah Kabir Baba, himself became a saint, and his disciples erected a mausoleum to his memory at Kanauj. Another son, Muhammad Wasih, and two grandsons, Muhammad Afzal and Muhammad Hakim, were honoured with tombs near that of Shah Qasim. Further additions to the landed estate of the shrine were made in the reigns of Shahjahan and Farrukhsiyar. To the latter it owes the gift of the village of Begpur. Poor travellers, who are Muslims, are provided with food for three days out of the income derived from the estates. The annual offerings to the saint take place between the 17th and 21st days of the Muhammadan month *Jamadi-ul-awwal*, and during *Chait* (March-April) five *dargah* fairs are held on Thursdays, which are attended by all classes, prayers and praise being conjoined with a brisk market in wordly goods. The buildings are seven in number. First there is the mausoleum of Shah Qasim himself. It is enclosed by lattice stone walls, outside which, standing on stone basements, are the graves of his disciples in groups, being separated from each other by beautifully carved stone screens. His cap and turban are shown at the tomb and it is believed that these, when gently rubbed by one of his disciples, pour out a divine effluence through the votaries who happen to be assembled there. On the entrance gate there is a brief inscription in five lines, all of which, except the last, are in Arabic, and consist of praises of the saint; the date given is 1016 *Hijri* or 1607 A.D. There are two other mausoleums, one belonging to the saint's son, Muhammad Wasih, and the other to his grandsons, Muhammad Afzal and Muhammad Hakim; and the other buildings include the *Nakkashi Darwaza* or principal gateway; the *Fawara Sawan Bhadon* or fountain of the rainy season; the *Rang mahal*, on the corner walls of which are engraved sixteen Persian couplets; and the mosque. The last six were all built,

it is said, by Muhammad Wasih in 1618 A.D. Bishop Heber described them and the grove within which they stand as "very solemn and striking". The carving of the principal gateway and of the stone lattice with which the garden is enclosed particularly struck that writer and are characterised by him as "more like embroidery than the work of the chisel".

Durga Kund.

About half a mile up a narrow ravine to the south-south-west of the railway station is a perennial spring, called Durga Kund. On the north side of the ravine stands the temple of Kamakshi Devi, and just below it a small old temple without name. The ravine or *Jhirna nala* is spanned by a bridge which leads to a row of three *dalans* or cloisters, formed by building against the face of the rock. Against the back wall there is a low platform or seat, 15 inches high and 16 inches broad, which was probably intended for the reception of statues. Sculptured on the rock there are several figures of lions, horses, and elephants in outline. The whole back wall is covered with short inscriptions of all ages from the Gupta period downwards; but there is nothing of interest among them. Similar inscriptions are also cut in the rock of the *Durga kho* or Durga's cave, a little further up the ravine, near which an annual fair is held on the ninth day of the Durga-puja festival. The cave is simply an old quarry which has been converted into a dwelling by building up two pillars under the edge of the overhanging rock; but the inscriptions are of considerable antiquity, several of them being of the Gupta period, though they are chiefly the personal records of pilgrims who have visited the cave.*

Other buildings.

There are several other interesting buildings scattered about the outskirts of Chunar The mausoleum of Iftikhar Khan, *nazim* in the reign of Jahangir, known as the old tahsildari, where the opium agent now has his office, lies beyond the Jirgo. Near the only gate by which admittance is gained there is a *baoli* well called the "robber's cave," with steps leading down to the water's edge. Formerly a subterranean passage led from the latter to the mausoleum, but this has long since been closed. An inscription over the well shows the date of its construction to have been A.D. 1605. The tomb of Saiyid Bahadur Ali is on a

* Cunningham: *A. R.* Vol. XI, p. 127, Vol. XXI, p. 125.
Führer: *Monumental Antiquities*, Vol. II, p. 260.

high stone platform at Tikaur. He was a large landholder in the neighbourhood, who was assigned a grant of land rent-free by Shahjahan. He adopted the usages and habits of a *faqir* and is much venerated by the people of the neighbourhood, who built a tomb over his body. It is affirmed that the tomb was originally of stone but that it was mysteriously transformed into white marble. Close to the railway station is situated, on the borders of a swamp, Phulwaria. In the days of Raja Sahadeo, a mythical raja of the fort, who had a daughter named Sunnia, who was married to Alha, the Banaphor hero of Mahoba, there was a garden here, the flowers from which used to be offered up daily to the idol at Durga kho. Udal is said to have taken up his residence here for a brief spell; and the garden is said to have been the model of one made by Saiyid Jamal-ud-din, *nazim* of Chunar in the reign of Qutb-ud-din Aibak, at Benares which was famed for the excellence of its melons. Near it is a monastery called Achraj, composed of blocks of stone buildings in which accommodation is provided for monks, pilgrims and others who come to worship. Along a terrace near the entrance is an array of Hindu deities with grotesque countenances. It is the alleged birthplace of the great Hindu hieresiarch Swami Ballabhacharya or, according to another version, of his son Bithal Nath, in whose honour the edifices were built. At the declivity of a hill believed to be the Sonwar pahar, south-east of Phulwaria, there are the remains of a small mosque. On the wall of this there was once, according to Captain Buckle in his *History of the Bengal Artillery*, to be seen the following inscription, smudged in charcoal:—

"This is the place of confinement of Annie Wood (wife of Lieutenant John Wood), taken prisoner by Jaffer Beg, Commandant to Sir Roger Dowlah (*sic*), taken out of the house at Calcutta, where so many unhappy gentlemen suffered. The said Jaffer Beg obtained promotion of Segour Dowlah (*sic*) for his long service as Faujdar of Chunar Gur. I, Alexander Campbell, was taken, along with the unfortunate lady, at 11 years old, by the same person; my only employment was to attend this lady, which I did in this place for four years. 1762, May 3rd. The said Jaffer Beg sent to acquaint the lady that if she did not consent to live with him she would be strangled by my hands. At midnight we both escaped in a boat to Chidsurah, where we arrived on the 11th. The first news we heard was that Lieutenant Wood died for grief; as soon as she heard this she fell sick, and died the 27th of the month. Mr. Drake behaved with the greatest imprudence; he did deserve to be shot, shot, shot. Alexander Campbell. I am now in Dowlah's service."

The inscription is supposed to commemorate a pathetic incident in the story of the Black Hole of Calcutta.

Cemeteries.

There are several cemeteries of interest in Chunar, and it is evident from the position of these that before the erection of the European invalid battalion barracks and the garrison hospital in the settlement, the British soldiers were located outside the station. One of these cemeteries is situated behind the Dargah on the Mirzapur road. It contains eight graves, from five of which the tablets have been removed. The three remaining inscriptions are those of Captain Edward Dawson, died 1785; Colonel Christian Knudson, died 1793; and Major Thomas Pennying, died 1784. A second cemetery is found near the old tahsildari, beyond the Jirgo, which contains over thirty graves; and there is another near Samaspur on the Mirzapur road, besides the old and new cemeteries in the Lower Lines. Chunar Fort cemetery lies just below and to the south-west of the Fort. The oldest grave in it is that of Ensign Hugh Stromach Cameron, who died on October 21st 1782, aged 80 years. An interesting tomb stone was discovered by W. Crooke, I.C.S., in bungalow no. 8 and placed in the wall of the Lower Lines cemetery. The inscription runs:—

By order of the Governor-General in Council.

In memory of Colonel George Barrington.

Major Thos. Bolton.	Capt. Norman McLeod.
Captain John Manley.	Capt. I. Mordaunt.
Liet. Andrew Cummings.	Liet. E. Wells.
Liet. W. Hinksman.	Liet. Jos. Richardson,
Liet. John Plumer.	Liet. I. Z. M. Birch.
Liet. W. Odell.	Liet. Edward Baker.

Liet. F. E. W. James Filfer.

and the European and Native Non-Commissioned Officers and Privates who fell on this spot in action against the Rohillas, October 1794.

The action referred to was fought in the Second Rohilla War on October 26th, 1794, near the village of Bhitaura (now called Fatehganj) eight miles from Bareilly. There is a similar tablet on the field of action at Bhitaura. It appears that both were made at Chunar, the one now described being rejected because it was cracked across the face.

CHUNAR *Pargana*, *Tahsil* CHUNAR,

Pargana Chunar or Haveli Chunar forms a strip of country some thirteen miles long and on an average four or five miles broad, on the southern bank of the Ganges; but it is considerably

broader in the eastern than in the western portion. The river separates it from pargana Qariat Sikhar and the Benares district in the north; to the east lies Bhuili ; to the south pargana Bhagwat and taluqa Saktesgarh ; and on the west tappa Chaurasi. The pargana lies wholly in the Ganges valley ; but whereas the western portion is separated by many miles of lowland from the hills, the eastern portion is bounded by the rocky outliers of Bhagwat and Saktesgarh ; and there are in the pargana several detached hills which form an agreeable contrast to the generally flat surface of the plains. The soil on or near the banks of the Ganges is low-lying alluvial soil, which is usually flooded in the rains and yields luxuriant crops without irrigation. In the interior of the pargana, however, the earth is much mixed with *kankar*, and the land is much cut up by ravines. Two streams, the Jirgo and the Kalkalia, flow down from the uplands of Bhagwat and drain the pargana. The villages in the south-western portion border upon the Vindhyans and the land there is consequently of inferior value. The spur from the main range, which runs northwards from the *jungal mahals*, terminates at the fort of Chunar, whose frowning battlements project into the Ganges and present a most imposing appearance from the opposite shore.

Haveli Chunar has a total area of 31,149 acres or 48 square miles. This is the average for the five years ending with 1907, for the extent of the pargana is to some extent affected by changes in the course of the river Ganges. Of this area, 5,508 acres or 17·68 are recorded as barren-waste, 1,408 acres being land unfit for cultivation, and the remainder covered with water or occupied by sites, roads, buildings, and the like. The culturable area amounts to 3,277 acres or 10·52 per cent. of the whole, only 142 acres or less than one-half per cent. being land which has never been brought under the plough. For the five years ending with 1907, the cultivated area averaged 22,364 acres or 71·80 per cent. of the whole, and of this only 1,703 acres or 7·61 per cent. were irrigated. As in other parganas of the Gangetic valley, the *rabi* is the principal harvest, covering 14,055 acres as against 13,519 acres sown in the *kharif*. The chief crop grown in the spring is barley, which occupies 6·46 per cent. when sown alone and 42·22 per cent. of the entire area sown in the harvest when intermixed with gram.

Gram alone covers 27·14 per cent., wheat alone or in combination with barley or gram 11·26 per cent. and peas 5·13 per cent. In the *kharif*, 41·57 of the area is devoted to *bajra*, alone or intermixed with *arhar;* and after this comes *juar*, alone or similarly combined, 14·46 per cent.; rice, 10·09 per cent.; and maize, 2·27 per cent. The area twice cropped within the year amounts on an average to 5,385 acres or 24·08 per cent. of the net cultivation, a higher proportion than in any pargana of the tahsil except Bhuili. Among the cultivators Brahmans predominate, and after them come Kurmis, Chamars and Koeris, the cultivation being generally of a high class order. Some 15 per cent. of the land was in 1907-08 included in proprietary holdings, either as *sir* or *khudkasht*; 32·55 per cent. was held by tenants at fixed rates, 25·87 per cent. by ex-proprietary and occupancy tenants, and 25·93 per cent by tenants-at-will, the small remainder being rent-free. Over 37 per cent. of the land included in holdings is sublet, this being the highest proportion in the tahsil with the exception of pargana Qariat Sikhar. Only 17 acres of land were grain-rented, and the tenants' cash rates varied from Rs. 11-1-6 per acre for *shikmi* tenants to Rs. 4-8-5 for occupancy tenants. Tenants at fixed rates paid Rs. 4-10-8 per acre and tenants-at-will Rs. 5-12-8.

At the time of the permanent settlement, Haveli Chunar was assessed to a demand of Rs. 41,302-2-6. The revenue which has been increased since by the resumption of revenue-free grants, the assessment of new alluvium and on similar accounts stood at Rs. 54,195-1-6 in 1907-08, and to this an addition of Rs. 4,629-7-0 may be made on account of cesses. There are 101 villages in the pargana and these are divided into 171 *mahals*. Of the latter 47 are in the hands of single *zamindars;* 78 are held in joint *zamindari* tenure and 46 are *pattidari* estates, all but 10 being of the imperfect form. The land belongs to a large variety of different clans, among whom Bhuinhars and Kurmis predominate. The largest individual proprietors are Pandits Raja Ram Ju, Kirpa Ram and Daya Ram, Marathas; these hold twelve villages wholly or in part and pay Rs. 5,139 land revenue: Babus Jugal Kishor and Bhagwati Prasad, Agarwalas of Chunar, pay Rs. 5,278 on six villages; and Dip Narayan Chaudhari Rs. 2,156 on three villages.

The population of the pargana in 1881 numbered 37,013 souls, and this fell to 35,817 in 1891. At the last census there were 34,902 inhabitants, of whom 18,220 were females. Classified according to religion there were 30,804 Hindus, 3,837 Musalmans, and 261 persons of other religions. The pargana contains the town and settlement of Chunar, which form two separate notified areas; but there is no other village in it which has as many as one thousand inhabitants. The East Indian railway runs through the pargana from east to west and has stations at Kylahat and Chunar within its boundaries; but the only metalled roads in the pargana are those which connect Chunar town with the railway station or are situated in the town and settlement. The unmetalled road from Mirzapur to Benares follows the railway, and other unmetalled roads run to Ahraura and towards Saktesgarh. The passage of the Ganges is effected by means of several ferries, a list of which is given in the appendix. There too will be found lists of the schools, post-offices, markets and fairs of the pargana.

The history of the pargana is practically that of the fort, and this has already been given elsewhere. After the fort fell finally into the hands of Akbar, Gautams, Kurmis, and Musalmans were invited to settle in the neighbourhood and the whole pargana was gradually brought under cultivation. The early settlers were treated as *zamindars* by the imperial officers, but when the territory fell into the hands of the subahdars of Oudh the revenue was farmed out to strangers. Later, when the tract came into the hands of Balwant Singh, that ruler is said to have used all his efforts to efface the names and destroy the titles of the old *zamindars*. On the assumption of direct management by the resident at Benares a great improvement in their position was effected, and such of them as could prove ancient proprietary rights were admitted to engagements. At the present day, for revenue and fiscal purposes, the pargana is merged in the tahsil of Chunar while it falls within the circle of the station at Chunar in police matters.

CHUNAR *Tahsil.*

Chunar is the central tahsil of the district, lying between th parallels of 24°17′ and 25°15′ N., and 82°42′ and 83°12′E., an

comprises the parganas of Bhagwat, Ahraura, Chunar, Bhuili and Qariat Sikhar as well as *taluqa* Saktesgarh of pargana Kantit. It is bounded on the north by the district of Benares and the river Ganges; on the east by Kera-Mangraur; on the south by pargana Barhar; and on the west by tahsil Mirzapur.

All the component subdivisions except pargana Qariat Sikhar lie to the south of the Ganges river; and only three, namely, *taluqa* Saktesgarh, Bhagwat and Ahraura, are situated wholly or partially on the Vindhyan uplands. In the extreme south of these the country is open and fairly level; the soil is tolerably productive, though inferior, and the villages are generally prosperous. The intermediate tract where the Vindhyan hills sink to the plains, stretching, in Saktesgarh, almost to the fortress rock of Chunar, is a very wild tract of broken country, covered with scrub jungle, which reaches its worst expression in the *jungal mahals* of Saktesgarh. The lowland portions of Bhagwat and Ahraura are diversified by a few outliers of rock, but elsewhere in Bhuili, Chunar and Qariat Sikhar the country is a level plain of fertile *dumat* or *doras* soil, growing a great variety and abundance of crops. The chief stream in the pargana is the Jirgo river, which rises in the south of Saktesgarh and Bhagwat. Further east there is a small stream called the Kalkalia *nala*, which joins the Jirgo not far from Chunar; while Bhuili is traversed by the Garai river, which rises in the south of Ahraura.

The total area of the tahsil, which varies to some extent from year to year owing to changes in the course of the Ganges, between 1903 and 1907 averaged 359,616 acres or 562 square miles. Of this, 86,711 acres or 24·11 per cent. are recorded barren, 42,622 acres being land unfit for cultivation and the remainder occupied by sites, roads, buildings and the like. The culturable area amounts to 118,800 acres or 33·04 per cent. of the tahsil, culturable waste accounting for 59,098 and old fallow for 38,914 acres. The quinquennial average for the cultivated area is 154,105 acres or 42·85 per cent., this proportion closely approximating the average of the surveyed portion of the district. Of this some 24,420 acres or 15·85 per cent. are normally irrigated. The *kharif* is the principal harvest, but only by a narrow margin, for the area sown averages 99,603 acres as against 96,883

in the *rabi*. The chief crop grown in the tahsil is rice in every subdivision but Qariat Sikhar and Chunar, where rice is replaced to a large extent by *juar* or *bajra*, generally intermixed with *arhar*. The other *kharif* crops are *til*, the small pulses and maize. In the spring, gram occupies the largest area; and after it comes wheat, which, besides being sown alone, is to a large extent intermixed with barley or gram. Considerable quantities of barley are grown, both alone and in combination with gram. The rest of the area in this harvest is devoted to peas, linseed, opium, *kirao* and other miscellaneous staples. The area twice-cropped within the year averages 42,781 acres or 27·76 per cent. of the net cultivation, this proportion being above the district average.

The cultivating body contains a large percentage of Kurmis; and the rest is composed of Brahmans, Rajputs, Ahirs, Chamars, and other miscellaneous castes. In 1907-08 some 18 per cent. of the land was included in proprietary holdings, whether as *sir* or *khudkasht*, 20·91 per cent. was held by tenants at fixed rates, 25·56 per cent. by ex-proprietary and occupancy tenants and 35·10 per cent. by tenants-at-will; while 30 per cent. of the area included in holdings was sublet. There were 10,241 acres let at grain-rents in the same year, and cash rates ranged from Rs. 8-8-8 an acre for *shikmi* tenants to Rs. 4-1-2 per acre for occupancy tenants. Fixed rate tenants paid Rs. 4-5-2 an acre and tenants-at-will Rs. 4-3-2. The tahsil contains 740 villages, and these are divided into 1,153 *mahals*. Of the latter 318 are in the hands of single *zamindars*; 524 are held in joint *zamindari* and 311 in *pattidari* tenure, 73 being of the perfect and 238 of the imperfect form. Of the various proprietary castes, Gaharwar Rajputs hold the largest area, the biggest landholder among them being the Raja of Kantit, who owns nearly the whole of *taluqa* Saktesgarh. Kurmis and Bhuinhars come next, their possessions being almost equal in extent; but there are no other castes who hold extensive areas, except Brahmans in Ahraura.

The population of Chunar in 1881 numbered 182,669 persons, and this rose to 185,582 in 1891. At the last enumeration in 1901 there were 176,532 inhabitants, of whom 90,519 were females. Classified according to religion there were 162,889

Hindus, 13,188 Musalmans, 282 Christians, 169 Aryas and 4 Jains. Kurmis were the numerically strongest Hindu caste, numbering 38,386; and after them came Chamars, 21,928; Brahmans, 13,015; and Ahirs, 10,790. Other castes having over five thousand representatives were Koeris, Binds and Bayars; while Rajputs, Kols, Telis, Banias, Lohars, Gadariyas, Kumhars, Nais, Kayasths, Lunias, Mallahs and Gonds exceeded two thousand in each case. Among Musalmans, Julahas with 3,461 persons exceeded all other subdivisions; and after them came Sheikhs, Behnas and Pathans. The population is almost wholly agricultural in character, being dependent for subsistence either directly on the cultivation of the soil, the pasturage of cattle, or trade in agricultural produce. The small industries of Chunar, the headquarters, and of Ahraura have been noticed in the articles on those places. Lists of the schools, post-offices, markets and fairs of the tahsil will be found in the appendix.

The tahsil is fairly well supplied with means of communication. The East Indian railway passes through the north of parganas Bhuili and Haveli Chunar, and has stations at Ahraura Road, Kylahat and Chunar. The only metalled roads are the railway approach road at Chunar and that which links the important market town of Ahraura with the station at Narayanpur. The latter is a portion of the great southern road which continues onwards to Chopan and Sarguja. Unmetalled roads run from Chunar to Ramnagar, Ahraura, Debiganj and Rajgarh. At Debiganj the grand trunk road is met; at Rajgarh that which leads from Mariahan to Hindubari. The only other roads are those from Ahraura to Chakia and Chainpur, and from Chakia to Ramnagar, portions of which alone are in the tahsil. A list of the ferries by which the passage of the river is effected will be found in the appendix.

Further details regarding the tahsil, including matters of historical importance, will be found in the articles on the different parganas. For criminal and revenue purposes the tahsil forms a subdivision which is generally entrusted to a full-powered officer of the district staff. In police matters the jurisdiction is divided between the stations at Chunar, Ahraura, Chhota Mirzapur and Ghorawal.

DIBHOR, *Tappa* UPRAUDH, *Tahsil* MIRZAPUR.

Dibhor lies in 24°42′N. and 82°18′E., nine miles south of Halia, on the road which leads from the latter place to Bhopari in Rewah. It is situated at the foot of the Kaimur range and gives its name to the *ghat* or pass by which the road ascends the hills; and there is a pathway through a gap in the hills to the east which joins the road running southwards to Bardi. The village itself is now but a small hamlet of a few houses and contained in 1901 a population of but 41 souls, all of whom were Hindus: but in earlier days it was, owing to its position, a place of some importance and was selected as the site of a small settlement by the Banjaras of Mirzapur. There is a small temple which has a long inscription of 22 lines recording its erection by Naik Man Mor, the head of the Banjara merchants of Mirzapur, in *sambat* 1881 or 1824 A.D.; and in contrast to the meanness of the temple is a fine tank, 430 feet in length from north to south and 352 feet in breadth from east to west, with steps all round, built by the same person. The Banjaras' attraction for the neighbourhood appears to have been due to the existence of jungle round about, whence they were able to supply Mirzapur with wood and charcoal; but the traffic has now practically died out. Not far from Dibhor, on the east of the road, is the lofty, flat-topped hill of Adesar, an outlier of the Kaimur range. It is said that there are several caves in the precipitous sandstone cliff near the top of the hill, but these have not been explored. A perennial spring called Tura comes out of the rock near the top of the hill, 2½ miles north-east of Dibhor, and close by is an irregularly shaped cell, 6 feet long by 4 feet broad, which is approached by a flight of steps on the east side. The spring flows out from beneath the cave, and its course is marked by a green track right down to the foot of the hill; while near the cell are several fine old trees.

DIG, *Pargana* BHADOHI, *Tahsil* KORH.

This is a large village distant 22 miles west-north-west from Mirzapur and 18 miles south-west from Korh; it lies in latitude 25°14′N. and longitude 82°15′E. The population has increased from a total of 2,087 in 1881 to a total of 2,312 in 1901, 94 of the latter number being Musalmans. Ahirs are the principal Hindu caste.

Dig once possessed a police station and a post-office, but these were subsequently removed to Ujh on the grand trunk road. An annual bathing fair attended by a large number of people is held in the place, which lies close to the Ganges; and in Katra Sujan Singh, an outlying hamlet, a bi-weekly market is held on Saturdays and Wednesdays.

DRUMMONDGANJ, *Tappa* UPRAUDH, *Tahsil* MIRZAPUR.

Drummondganj is otherwise known as Deohat and is situated on the great Deccan road at the foot of the Katra pass. It is distant 35 miles south-west from Mirzapur, and lies in latitude 24°53′N. and longitude 82°10′E. The village was named after Major Drummond, who constructed the road and the ascent to the plateau above; it contains a post office, school and pound, while close by is a military encamping ground. A bazar is held on Wednesdays and Saturdays. The population in 1901 numbered 1,128 souls, of whom 919 were Hindus and 209 were Muhammadans, Banias being the most numerous Hindu caste residing in the place. Cesses are levied on the *zamindars*, under section 86 of the United Provinces Act III of 1901, the receipts annually amounting to some Rs. 200; these are spent on improving the sanitation of the bazar and in providing extra watch and ward.

DUDHI, *Pargana* DUDHI, *Tahsil* ROBERTSGANJ.

The chief town of the pargana of the same name lies in 24° 13′ N, and 83°15′ E., about two miles west of the Kanhar river. It is distant 95 miles south-east from Mirzapur and 45 miles south-south-east from Robertsganj. It is connected to the north by the roads running to Chopan *via* Hathinala, or to Pannuganj *via* Kon and Argarh. Dudhi is the most important place south of the Son and in 1901 had a population of 1,779 persons: of these 1,078 were Hindus, 249 were Musalmans, and 452 were of other religions, being apparently for the most part Christians. It is a flourishing place and contains a post-office, police-station, dispensary, inspection bungalow, cattle-pound and sub-registrar's office. Along the Chopan road there is a good encamping-ground, and to the south is a government garden and a nursery. The police station and *sazawal's* office are situated inside the town, where there is also an

excellent *sarai*, a fine open *chauk* or market place, and some good wells. A weekly market is held here on Thursdays. Dudhi also has an establishment of the London Missionary Society, known as the Dudhi Mission, the buildings of which are situated near the camping-ground and consist of a substantial parsonage and a small church. The mission was started in 1862-63 by the Reverend Dr. Mather and it was originally intended that two missionaries should occupy the new station, one of whom was to be a medical man. This intention has so far not been carried out. Mr. Jones took up his residence in 1863 at Dudhi, but in 1866 his health broke down and he was compelled to go home on furlough. He died in 1870 and was buried in the little cemetery adjoining the church. The tombstone bears the following inscription :—

"Sacred to the memory of the Reverend William Jones, aged 38 years. He joined the London Missionary Society in 1858, was appointed to the Singrauli Mission in 1863, and remained in connection with it till his death, April 25th, 1870. He was a missionary of great earnestness and self-denial and sacrificed his life to his high sense of Christian duty in his labours among the tribes of Singrauli. This monument is erected in loving remembrance of him by his European and native friends."

The present Mission church was built in 1887, at a cost of Rs. 1,200; and since 1870 the work of evangelization has been carried on by native missionaries, visits being paid from time to time by the superintendent at Mirzapur. Now however there is again a resident European missionary.

DUDHI *Pargana, Tahsil* ROBERTSGANJ.

Pargana Dudhi forms the south-eastern portion of Roberstganj tahsil, being bounded on the north by pargana Agori; on the east by Palamau and Sarguja; on the south by Sarguja; and on the west by pargana Singrauli. Its greatest length is about 30 miles and its greatest breadth about 24 miles, the total area being 388,983 acres or 607·2 square miles.

In order to distinguish it from the permanently settled pargana of Singrauli, Dudhi is sometimes called Taufir Singrauli, East Singrauli or Bichhipar; the first title denoting its escape from assessment in 1792, the others its situation east of the Bichhi river. It is divided into four tappas. Pulwa, which has an area of 79 square miles, lies east of the Kanhar river; Dudhi, 121½ square miles, forms

the whole belt on the northern border, west of the Kanhar; Gonda Bajia covers 173 square miles on the east and south; and Barha or Adhaura, lying south-west of Dudhi and north-west and west of Gonda-Bajia, occupies 234 square miles. The most fertile of these four are Dudhi and Pulwa.

The pargana may be described as a beautiful, though somewhat bleak, hill-country, clad in places with stunted forest and supporting, in its valleys and the basins of its rivers, a scanty cultivation. The hills consist chiefly of igneous and metamorphic rocks. Towards the north they belong to the clay-slate or schistose formation; but in the great bulk of the pargana they are composed of gneiss, seamed with occasional bands of dolomite, limestone, quartz, serpentine and other minerals. The most continuous and sharply defined of the former is known in different places as the Hathwani or Jorukhar range, and it forms an uninterrupted barrier except where it is pierced by the Kanhar river. Viewed from this ridge the pargana seems an undulating plateau, dotted with small ranges of hills and isolated peaks. The loftiest of the latter is Gonda, 1,830 feet above sea level or about 700 feet above the level of the plain below, and the lowest is Bhumha, 1,571 feet. The soil varies in depth from about five feet on the hillsides to fifty feet in the valleys, and consists either of a cold stiff clay, called *matiyar*, or a loose sandy earth, known as *balua*. Intermediate between these is *dumat* or loam, and in a few places, usually along the banks of rivers, is found the fine alluvial loam called *kewal*, which is of a dark colour. The coarse gravel at the foot of the hills is known as *patharha*. The pargana is touched both by the Rihand and the Bichhi rivers, which form for some distance its boundry with Singrauli; but the chief river in it is the Kanhar. The latter enters Dudhi from Sarguja near the village of Sundari and forms the boundary between tappa Pulwa on the east and tappas Gonda-Bajia and Dudhi on the west. It is a perennial stream, but fordable in most places; while in the rains rafts of bamboos and *ballis* are drifted down it. The Kanhar has several tributaries, the chief of which are the Pangan, Thema and Lahra.

Of the total area of the pargana 140,544 acres or 219·6 square miles are returned as barren waste, and 197,504 acres or 308·6 square miles as culturable land fit for but out of cultivation. The

cultivated area averages some 50,000 acres. The *kharif* is the principal harvest, the chief crops grown being rice, *kodon*, *sawan*, *urd*, *mijhri*, *til* and maize; while in the *rabi*, wheat, barley, gram peas are sown, these, like maize, being generally confined to the well-manured land near villages. Cultivation is either permanent or fluctuating, the first being that which was demarcated as such at the regular survey and is always under the plough, and the latter consisting of outlying fields which are as a rule only cultivated for three years in succession and then lie fallow for the next three years. Very little irrigation is carried on owing to the lack of water. This is scarce even for drinking purposes, for the average depth of water is very great and before it can be met with granite rocks have to be pierced. Large sums of money have been spent by the Government on sinking wells and constructing tanks and embankments; but the water impounded by the latter or contained by small filtration wells fails in dry seasons owing to the porosity of the soil, and the inhabitants have to depend for their supplies on rivers and streams. This scarcity of water prevents the cultivation of the more paying crops; and there is very little sugarcane or cotton grown. Much of the area of the pargana is covered with jungle of a generally poor description. In this, in former times, the destructive system of *dhaiya* cultivation used to be carried on, but this has now been checked and all the best jungle is reserved. Reserved jungle is known as *rakhat* and is about 78,876 acres in extent; while in non-reserved jungle, technically called *katat*, any person may go and cut wood without let or hindrance. These jungles form valuable grazing grounds for cattle during October and November, but during December, owing to the scarcity of water, the grass rapidly dries up and the herds move southwards to Sarguja.

The population of Dudhi in 1881 numbered 40,496 persons, and this fell to 39,943 in 1891. At the last enumeration in 1901 there were 44,476 inhabitants, of whom 22,570 were females. Classified according to religion there were 42,838 Hindus, 1,089 Musalmans and 549 persons of other religions. The chief castes are Manjhis or Majhwars, Kharwars, Ahirs, Pankas, Chamars, Brahmans and Banias. These form also the cultivating body, while the whole pargana is owned by the Government. There are

240 villages in Dudhi, which are divided into 151 *mahals*, all except 17, (16 in Gonda-Bajia and one in Pulwa), being held under the peculiar tenure known as *sapurdari*. The only large place is Dudhi itself, which has been separately described. Lists of the schools post-offices, markets and fairs of the pargana will be found in the appendix.

The entire traffic of the parganà is conducted on pack animals. The principal highway is that which, traversing the pargana from north to south, is known as the Chopan, Manbasa and Sarguja frontier road. Almŏst immediately after passing the northern border at Hathinala, this throws out a branch which runs to Dudhi. Being 32 miles long, the route by road and branch from Dudhi to Chopan is locally known as the sixteen *kos* road. Another road crosses the pargana from west to east, from Singrauli to Jorukhar. It continues on to Nagar-Untari in Palamau, crossing the Dudhi border at the village of Murli Semar and brings Dudhi within 35 miles of the railway. Consequently the traffic along this road is increasing and it will soon be the most important trade-route in the pargana. A road takes off this road at Jorukhar and runs northwards to Kon, Argarh and Pannuganj, but the remaining tracks are mere bridle paths, hardly passable for camel transport.

Pargana Dudhi, along with Agori and Singrauli, was included in the kingdom of the Baland Rajas of the 12th century and passed with them into the hands of the Chandel usurpers about 1310 A.D. The Chandels were ejected about 1450 by the Kharwars, only to regain possession under Oran Deo a few years later. The Chandels retained their hold on Dudhi, Agori and Barhar for about two centuries, though a Benbansi chieftain managed to set up a semi-independent rule in Singrauli. The next that is heard of Dudhi is in the 17th century, when one Bariar Sah, who called himself a Rakhsel Rajput, settled at Pulwa and built a fort there. He seems to have held tappas Dudhi, Pulwa, and Barha for a brief period about 1650, till he was dispossessed by the Bhuiya chief of Nagar-Untari in Palamau. The Bhuiyas appear to have divided the country into *badhas* and *pachauras*, or manors of twelve and five villages respectively. Meanwhile the Benbansis of Singrauli who had been ejected by the Chandels managed to regain their possessions under Dariao and Dalel Sah. Dariao slew his brother

and took his territory of Singrauli, including Dudhi. He was succeeded by his son, Fakir Sah, who assumed the tittle of Raja and made himself practically independent of the Chandels of Agori-Barhar, though he appears to have paid them tribute as a vassal. When Balwant Singh ejected the Chandels, Fakir Sah was forced to pay him tribute; and the Dudhi tappas passed nominally into the hands of the British after Chet Singh's explusion in 1781. Something has already been said regarding the Dudhi tappas in Chapter III. The latter were at first so little known that they remained for years a kind of debateable land between the Benares and Bihar *sarkars*, and by the careful management of the Singrauli Raja they were omitted from the general settlement in 1789-90. During the intrigues and struggles of the Agori and Singrauli Rajas the proprietorship of Dudhi actually remained in the hands of the Bhuiyas; but in 1808 the Singrauli Raja got himself appointed their manager and by 1830 he secured indisputed control over them. So far the tappas had been almost totally overlooked by British administrators, and this might have gone on indefinitely had not the disputes between the Bhuiyas and the Raja been brought to the notice of the Government by outbreaks of violence. In 1847 Mr. W. Roberts was sent to inquire into the rights of the people; and in the course of the inquiry the causes through which the tappas had been kept free of assessment became known. In 1851 formal proceedings were instituted under Regulation II of 1819 (a regulation providing for the assessment of lands that for any reason had escaped settlement) to decide whether Dudhi was or was not included in the permanent settlement. The result was that all the tappas were declared to be at the absolute disposal of the Government. The next step taken by the Singrauli Raja was to claim that a settlement should be made with him as proprietor. The question was not decided till 1856, when the Government made known its intention of holding the tappas under *kham* or direct management, the Raja being granted as an act of grace an allowance (*malikana*) of 10 per cent. on the collections. Of subsequent settlements in Dudhi some account has already been given in Chapter IV.

After Mr. Roberts's settlement the Government at first decided to place the Dudhi tappas under a special covenanted officer.

The first chosen for the post was Mr. Moore, joint magistrate, who never undertook the duties, being killed by rebels at the Mutiny. Mr. James Simson was selected in his place; but in a few years the system was changed, the administration being carried on through a *sazawal* or manager in subordination to the collector. In 1862 the London Missionary Society offered to take a farm of the tappas; and the proposal, which had for its object rather the conversion of the aborigines than any profit to the Society, was warmly supported by the local officers. Negotiations had proceeded for some time, and the already drafted engagements were all but executed when the directors of the society interfered. They were "at a loss to perceive how the duties of missionaries are to be rendered compatible with those of landlords," and the arrangement fell through. Two years later Dudhi and the south of Mirzapur became a non-regulation tract by the passing of the Act XIX of 1864, "an Act to remove certain tracts of country in the district of Mirzapur from the jurisdiction of the local courts." The original enactment was repealed by the Scheduled Districts Act (XIV of 1874); but the latter only reaffirmed the provisions of the former. Ever since 1864 the Dudhi tappas have been managed as a *khas* or government estate by the collector; and in 1891 a complete new set of rules was framed by the Board of Revenue* for the management of the estate. For criminal purposes the pargana does not form a separate subdivision, being part of the tahsil of Robertsganj. In police matters the jurisdiction belongs to the station at Dudhi.

GAHARWARGAON, *Pargana* SINGRAULI, *Tahsil* ROBERTSGANJ.

Gaharwargaon lies in 24° 7′ N., and 82° 51′ E., and is the capital of pargana Singrauli. It is distant 84 miles south-south-east from Mirzapur and 60 miles south-south-west from Robertsganj. Close by runs the Rihand river. The population of the place has considerably increased during the last forty years. In 1881 there were only 774 inhabitants, while at the last enumeration in 1901 they numbered 1,015 persons, 920 being Hindus and 95 being Musalmans. The Raja of Singrauli, of whom an account has been

* Board's no. 136-1, of 1891. Proceedings, Nos. 26 to 31.

given in Chapter III, resides here, and there is also a primary school in the place. The population is larger than in most villages in the Sonpar tract, and the bazar is a flourishing one. The residence of the Raja of Singrauli is a highly ornamented two-storeyed building with a large number of out-offices and having some pretty gardens round it. To the north of the village is a large artificial tank. The Government buildings, including the police station and post-office, lie at Khairwa, a mile to the west.

GAIPURA, *Tappa* CHHIYANVE, *Tahsil* MIRZAPUR.

Gaipura is a small village lying in latitude 25°-9′N. and longitude 82°24′E., at a distance of 12 miles west-north-west from Mirzàpur. In 1901 it had a population of 102 persons, all of whom were Hindus, the majority being Brahmans. An unmetalled road, two miles in length, connects Gaipura with Bijaipur to the south. The place contains a third class police-station and gives its name to a station on the East Indian railway.

GAURA, *Tappa* CHHIYANVE, *Tahsil* MIRZAPUR.

This is a large agricultural village lying in 25°10′N. and 82°20′E., on the south bank of the Ganges. It is distant 16 miles west from Mirzapur. The population of the place is large and in 1901 numbered 2,578 persons, of whom 88 were Musalmans. Gaharwar Rajputs are the predominant Hindu caste. The inhabitants distinguished themselves in 1857 by a series of daring river dacoities, and the village was destroyed by Colonel Pott and a detachment of the 47th Native Infantry from Mirzapur, aided by a detachment of the 1st Madras Fusiliers. The village contains a primary school.

GHORAWAL, *Pargana* BARHAR, *Tahsil* ROBERTSGANJ.

The town of Ghorawal lies in latitude 24°15′N. and longitude 82°48′E., at a distance of 39 miles south-east from Mirzapur and 20 miles west from Robertsganj. With Mirzapur it is connected by a road, which is unmetalled as far as Mariahan, but is metalled from Mariahan to Mirzapur. The road leading to Robertsganj is only partially bridged and drained and is obstructed especially during the rains by frequent water-courses. Ghorawal lies in the

centre of a fertile tract in which the water-level is high; and there is a considerable amount of irrigation carried on in the neighbourhood by means of the *dhenkul* or lever. The market, which is held twice a week in the town on Sundays and Wednesdays, is one of some importance, the chief articles of traffic being grain, *ghi* and wood; these pass through Ghorawal to Mirzapur. The town contains a police station, pound, post-office and school. The police station has been built so as to be capable of defence in case of necessity.

Ghorawal has been administered under Act XX of 1856 since the year 1872. The income derived from the usual *chaukidari* assessment under the Act amounts to Rs. 300 a year and is supplemented from time to time by special grants. It is expended in the maintenance of extra police and the establishment of a small conservancy staff. The town has with three exceptions the smallest population of any town administered under Act XX of 1856 in the province, and the population has decreased of late years. In 1886 there were 1,157 inhabitants: the number fell to 1,058 in 1891, and in 1901 there were only 1,003 persons in the town. Classified according to religion there were 792 Musalmans and 211 Hindus.

GHOSEA, *Pargana* BHADOHI, *Tahsil* KORH.

A large village in 25°11′N. and 82°33′E., distant 19 miles north from Mirzapur, 7 miles east from Gopiganj, and one mile north-east of Bazar Madho Singh, with which, in business matters, it is intimately connected. The population of the place has considerably increased during the last 30 years; for in 1881 the inhabitants numbered only 1,973, whereas in 1901 there were 2,791 persons in the place, no less than 1,844 being Muhammadans. Ghosea and Madho Singh are centres of the Mirzapur carpet-weaving industry. There is a primary school in the village, and a bi-weekly market is held on Wednesdays and Saturdays.

GOPIGANJ, *Pargana* BHADOHI, *Tahsil* KORH.

Gopiganj lies in latitude 25°17′N. and longitude 82°26′E.; it is distant 15 miles north-west from Mirzapur and four miles south-west from the tahsil headquarters at Korh, and lies at the

point where the metalled road from Mirzapur joins the grand trunk road. The place has considerably declined in importance since the railway attracted to itself the traffic that, before it was opened, moved along the grand trunk road; but there is still a considerable amount of trade carried on, particularly in grain and sugar, for both of which articles Gopiganj is still the principal market town of the pargana. A short metalled road, two and a half miles in length, connects the place with Rampur ghat on the Ganges, which may be considered its river port. There are no historical remains in the town, nor are there any buildings worthy of note. It contains a police station, pound, post-office, and middle vernacular and primary schools.

Gopiganj has been administered under Act XX of 1856 since the year 1872. The income, which is derived from the usual tax under the Act amounts to some Rs. 610 yearly. Out of this sum three town police are maintained for watch and ward and a staff of five sweepers for conservancy; while the balance is expended on simple works of improvement in the town. The population has fluctuated considerably during the last forty years. The number of the inhabitants was 3,617 in 1872; this rose to 4,622 in 1881, but fell again to 3,792 in 1891. At the last enumeration in 1901 there were 4,005 persons in the place, 2,991 being Hindus and 1,013 Musalmans. Among the Hindus, Brahmans and Chamars are the numerically strongest castes.

HALIA, *Tappa* UPRAUDH, *Tahsil* MIRZAPUR.

Halia is an important rural bazar and village, distant 34 miles south-west from Mirzapur and 20 miles south from Lalganj, and lies in 24°50′N. and 82°20′E. With Lalganj and Drummondganj it is connected by unmetalled roads, which join the great Deccan road leading from Mirzapur to the south. Halia contains a police station, pound, post-office and school; and near the village are some fine mango groves used for camping. A bi-weekly market is held on Sundays and Wednesdays, on a patch of waste-land outside the site. There is an old mud fort to which no history attaches but which was doubtless once of importance because it commanded the passage of the Adh river close to the village.

Halia has lost much of its importance since the road from Mirzapur to Rewah *viâ* the Katra pass was completed. The old road passed through Halia and ascended the ghats *via* Dibhor and the Kerahi pass, and the village was then a halting place for the merchants who travelled along this route. On the bank of the river, on a high point above the road, there is a large flat slab, 7 feet 8 inches high by 4 feet 6 inches broad, with two long inscriptions in English and Hindi, recording the capture of the fort of Bhopari on the Son river on April 18th, 1811, by a regiment of Native Infantry. Both inscriptions are roughly cu
The English inscription is as follows :—

"Under the auspices of Lord Minto, Governor General of India, and General Hewett, Commander-in-Chief and Vice-President
A passage was made through the Kirahe Pass,
Of vast height two miles in extent,
Into Burdee for 18-pounders etc, etc.
By Lieutenant-Colonel Js. Tetley, Commanding,
The 2nd battalion 21st regiment native infantry,
Aided by the great exertions
Of his gallant and willing corps,
The following of whom fell courageously
Assaulting Bobarrah Churry in Burdee.

APRIL A.D. 1811.

Which is now destroyed
And levelled with the ground
Golaub Singh Naick, Sepoys Gassie Deen,
Pheroo Singh, Jysook, Deenah, Boodie,
Incha, Byjenaut, Gooranje Sing, Pooran,
Bahader Cawn, Golandauze,
Panchoo, Gun Luscar.
Soane, Head Bullockman.

Tilloock Singh, of the same corps, killed at Bisore Gaut, February Jern 2 Havel 5 Nai 30 sepoys defending the post Against 300 Bandit, Beating them off.

The Hindi inscription, which consists of 25 lines, is rather fuller than the English one, as it mentions that no batteries were made, and that the guns were brought up close to the gate, but that the fort did not fall then, as the *qiladar*, or governor, made his escape.*

* For a transcription of the Hindi record, see Cunningham, *Arch. Rep.* Vol. XXI. p. 122.

The monument was erected to commemorate a little expedition undertaken at the instance of Lallu Naik, a well-known merchant of Mirzapur, to punish the marauders of Rewah, who used to plunder the rich convoys of merchandise which passed between Mirzapur and the Deccan. This same Lallu Naik constructed along the old road *viâ* Halia and the Kerahi and Dibhor *ghats* a number of fine masonry tanks, the ruins of which still testify to the importance of the trade the route once possessed. He was a powerful and wealthy man who seems to have used his riches well, but the wealth of the family subsequently declined.

The population of Halia has steadily decreased during the last 30 years. In 1881 there were 1,923 inhabitants; but in 1891 the number had fallen to 1,712, and at the last enumeration in 1901 there were only 1,212 persons living in the place. Of this total 1,065 were Hindus and 147 were Muhammadans, the principal Hindu caste being that of Kols.

KACHHWA, *Taluqa* MAJHWA, *Tahsil* MIRZAPUR.

Kachhwa is an important market town situated in latitude 25°12′N. and longitude 82°43′E., distant 11 miles north-east from Mirzapur and some two miles north-east of the ferry over the Ganges at Bhatauli ghat. The road from Mirzapur is metalled as far as the *ghat*, but from this point onwards it is unmetalled; other unmetalled roads lead south-eastwards to Chunar and north-westwards to Katka where the grand trunk road is met. The bazar consists of a double line of houses and shops along the road, with side streets leading off; some of the houses are masonry but the majority are built of mud. The market is much resorted to, especially during the rains when there is some difficulty in crossing the Ganges. The town possesses a police station, pound, post-office and middle vernacular school; there is also an encamping-ground close by which is well shaded with trees. The only local industry now is the manufacture of small iron vessels for domestic use; but formerly the place was the headquarters of the Kachhwa Indigo Concern. The buildings in which this once prosperous factory was located have now been converted into a dispensary and hospital, which is maintained by the London Missionary Society.

Kachhwa has been administered under the provisions of Act XX of 1856 since the year 1872. The income which is derived from the usual tax amounts on an average to Rs. 515 annually. A force of three town police is maintained for the watch and ward of the town, and a staff of five sweepers for conservancy. The population of the place has somewhat declined of late years: it numbered 3,262 persons in 1872 and the number steadily rose till it was 3,443 in 1891. At the last enumeration in 1901 there were 3,371 inhabitants: 2,991 were Hindus, 384 were Musalmans, and 20 belonged to other denominations. Chamars are the principal Hindu caste.

KANTIT, *Tappa* CHHIYANVE, *Tahsil* MIRZAPUR.

Kantit lies in 25°10′N. and 82°33′E., and gives its name to a pargana. It is situated at the confluence of the Ujla and the Ganges, close to Mirzapur; but as a town has no separate existence, being included in the municipal boundaries of Mirzapur. It is a place of great historical importance. There are in it the extensive remains of an old fort, which was probably the citadel of an old Bhar capital, but of this only the mud rampart and ditch and a few scattered fragments of masonry remain. Besides this there is an ancient mosque of much later date, which has been now entirely modernized; but there are no other remains worthy of description.

KANTIT *Pargana, Tahsil* MIRZAPUR.

The pargana of Kantit is now a practically obsolete territorial designation, the tract which composes it being divided into a number of smaller subdivisions, namely tappas Chaurasi, Chhiyanve, Kon, and Upraudh in tahsil Mirzapur; and *taluqa* Saktesgarh, which for administrative convenience is now included in the tahsil of Chunar. The physical features of the tract have already been sufficiently described in the separate articles on those subdivisions. The population of the pargana in 1881 numbered 358,459 persons, and this fell to 356,530 in 1891. At the last enumeration there were 300,360 inhabitants, of whom 161,136 were females; while, classified according to religion, Hindus numbered 276,650, Musalmans 23,022, and persons of other religions

688. The pargana contains the headquarters town of the district, as well as the ancient cities of Kantit and Bindhachal. The communications, including railways, roads and ferries, have already been detailed in the special articles; and lists of the schools, post-offices, markets and fairs will be found in the appendix.

The early history of the pargana is obscure. It appears to have been the estate of the Gaharwar Rajas of Kantit and Bijaipur. The first of the line was Gudan Deo who carved out a principality for himself from the ancient Bhar kingdom, the headquarters of which were at Pampapura near Kantit. In the time of the Lodis, Kantit, which then probably embraced an extensive tract in the Khairagarh tahsil of the Allahabad district, now owned by another branch of the Gaharwars, is spoken of as "a dependency of Panna," by which is apparently meant Rewah. In the days of Akbar the pargana formed a *mahal* in the *sarkar* of Allahabad, the chieftains being apparently no longer dependent on Rewah. Sakat Singh, one of the Rajas, is described as a contemporary of Akbar, and he is said to have added to his domains by conquering Saktesgarh from the Kols and by contracting a politic alliance with the Monas chieftains of Bhadohi, securing by the latter step the tappa of Kon which was given as a dowry to his wife. The family appears to have enjoyed its domains, as thus extended, until 1758 A.D. when Bikramajit, the then ruling chief, was expelled by Balwant Singh. From Chet Singh their territory passed to the British, who restored the family to some of its ancestral possessions; but the pargana of Kantit, as expressive of an independent *taluqa*, ceased to have a separate existence in 1758.

KASWAR *Pargana, Tahsil* MIRZAPUR.

The pargana of Kaswar is a subdivision of the old Benares province; and in the days of Akbar there was a *mahal* of the name in the *sarkar* of Benares. The pargana, divided into two portions known as Kaswar Raja and Kaswar Sarkar, the former being, like Bhadohi and Kera-Mangraur, the property of the Raja of Benares and the latter belonging to the Government, lies almost wholly in the present Benares district. The only portion of it which falls into Mirzapur is the small *taluqa* of Majhwa on the north of the Ganges, which is now included in the Mirzapur tahsil.

All details regarding this tract will be found in the article on that *taluqa*, to which reference should be made.

KATKA, *Taluqa* MAJHWA, *Tahsil* MIRZAPUR.

Katka lies on the grand trunk road at the point where the unmetalled road from Kachhwa joins that road; it is situated in latitude 25°15′N. and longitude 82°4′E., about 4½ miles north of the Ganges, the distance from Mirzapur being by road some ten miles. The place is one of no importance, but owing to its position on the grand trunk road a police station was formerly located here, and there was also a post-office. The police station was subsequently replaced by an outpost; but this too has recently been abolished, and the post-office has also been removed. There is a military encamping-ground in the village. The population of the place has declined: in 1881 it numbered 1,029 persons, but in 1901 the number had fallen to 922, of whom only two were Musalmans. Brahmans are the numerically strongest Hindu caste.

KERA-MANGRAUR, *Pargana* KERA-MANGRAUR, *Tahsil* CHAKIA.

The two villages of Kera Mangraur lie close together in latitude 25°3′N. and 82°33′E. They are distant 48 miles from Mirzapur, 28 miles from Chunar, and four miles from Chakia and lie close to the unmetalled road leading from Chakia to Chainpur in Shadabad. Neither village is a place of any importance, but the pargana is called after their combined names; they contain no buildings of any note, the police station, pound, post-office and school being situated now at Chakia. Kera had in 1901 a population of 381 souls, of whom 9 were Musalmans; while in Mangraur there were only 191 inhabitants, of whom 48 were Muhammadans.

KERA-MANGRAUR *Pargana*, *Tahsil* CHAKIA.

The pargana of Kera-Mangraur is conterminous with the tahsil of Chakia and lies between the parallels of 24°56′ and 25°15′N. and 83°13′ and 83°24′E. It lies in the south-east corner of the district, being bounded on the north by the Chandauli tahsil of the Benares district, on the east by the Shahabad district of Bengal, on the south by pargana Bijaigarh of the Robertsganj

tahsil; and on the west by parganas Barhar, Ahraura and Bhuili. The pargana is situated partly in the valley of the Ganges and partly on the Vindhyan plateau. The former, which is the northern portion, is a uniform and fertile plain, producing abundant crops of excellent rice and with little to break the familiar monotony of the landscape. Just beyond Chakia the northern face of the hills is reached, the tract called the *Daman-i-koh* where the hills meet the plains being especially picturesque. These are scarped and precipitous, with long and tortuous gorges by which the rivers escape into the lowlands—the Chandraprabha by a single leap and the Karamnasa by a succession of cascades. A number of isolated hills, outliers of the same formation as the tableland, stand out slightly in advance of the main barrier. Above the scarp which is ascended by the three difficult passes (the most accessible being that immediately above Chakia) the country is one vast expanse of hill and jungle. The general direction of the hills is east and west, parallel with the face of the plateau, but there are numerous cross ranges in every direction which are rugged and difficult, though none of them attains any great height. The major part of the area forms a game preserve, the shooting of which is reserved by the Maharaja of Benares. The densest and best of the jungle is in the north of the plateau; towards the south the country becomes more open, and there are large tracts to which the people of the surrounding country and even distant parts of the district bring their cattle to graze during the four rainy months of the year. This southern portion of the pargana is known as *tạluqa* Naugarh. The scenery is among the wildest and most beautiful in the whole district. The tract is only accessible from the plains by precipitous passes and rough mountain roads; the population is very scanty and is composed almost entirely of aboriginal tribes. Here and there are a few villages which might be called populous, and are each surrounded by a considerable area of cultivated ground; but generally speaking the whole *taluqa*, in extent nearly 300 miles, is forest with here and there a few clearings, each containing one or more hamlets interspersed at wide intervals over its surface. The largest clearing is an open valley in the very centre, watered by a small stream called the

Kandhla. There are many hill torrents in the pargana, but the only streams of any importance are the Chandraprabha and Karamnasa. The latter, which enters *taluqa* Naugarh from pargana Bijaigarh, first curves to the east, isolates a small tract in the extreme south-east, and then flows along the Shahabad boundary for some seven miles. It leaves the plateau by a succession of leaps of varying elevation, including two falls known as the Latifsah and Chhandpathar, which from their superior height and beauty are worthy of special notice. The Chandraprabha is a smaller stream which rises in the south-western corner of the *taluqa* and descends into the plains by a single fall of 400 feet in the midst of an amphitheatre of rock. After leaving the hills both streams pass through gorges to the level country beyond and find their way across the pargana in parallel courses to the Benares boundary. In the north-eastern extremity of *taluqa* Naugarh there is a singular dell, called Amchuha. It is a deep cleft in the mountain formed by the bed of a small torrent which runs dry in the hot weather. A reservoir excavated in the solid rock remains constantly full of delicious, fresh water, being fed apparently by percolation from the rock. The descent to the dell is exceedingly steep and beneath a projecting rock, which overhangs the reservoir, is a deep cavern which presents the *beau ideal* of an anchorite's cell. The total area of the pargana is returned at 474 square miles or 303,360 acres; but only the lowland portion and the cultivated lands in the villages on the table land have been cadastrally surveyed and for these alone are complete statistics available. This, the surveyed portion of the pargana, had an average total area of 101,720 acres for the five years ending in 1907. Of this, 9,867 acres or 9·70 per cent. were, according to the returns prepared by the Maharaja of Benares, barren land unfit for cultivation, only 25 acres being unculturable waste. There were 21,846 acres of culturable waste, forming 21·48 per cent., nearly all of which fell under the heads of old and new fallow. During the same period 70,007 acres or 68·82 per cent. of the surveyed portion were on an average under the plough. The settlement of new villages in the upland tracts is not encouraged, as it would interfere with the preservation of game. The cultivation accordingly on the plateau is very small in extent,

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and the statistics here given may practically be accepted as those of the rich and thickly populated lowland. The soils there are either *doras* or loam of a generally light colour, sometimes so sandy as to approach *balua*, or *karaili matiyar*, a dark friable earth not unlike the black cotton soil of Bundelkhand. The former preponderates in patti Majhli and the latter in patti Lehra, both varieties being found in patti Chaubiswa. The system of agriculture is good and stable, and irrigation is extensively practiced, the area irrigated averaging some 21,767 acres or 31·09 per cent. of the cultivation. The sources of supply are various: but nearly 78 per cent. of the irrigated area is watered from wells; and the remainder which depends on other sources is supplied from the Bahachandra or Chandauli canal, the rivers and their tributaries, and from embankments. This area will expand when the contemplated extensions and improvements of irrigation, already described in Chapter II, are carried out. The cropped area is almost exactly divided between the two harvests, the *kharif* normally covering 45,497 and the *rabi* 45,354 acres. In the autumn the principal crop is rice. This occupies 74·74 per cent. of the area sown, and no other crop is of sufficient importance to deserve separate mention. In the spring 22·74 per cent. of the area is devoted to gram, 17·72 per cent. to barley, and 9·60 per cent. to barley intermixed with gram. Wheat alone occupies 6·89 per cent. and when intermixed with either barley or gram an additional 9·23 per cent., the other principal crops being peas, linseed, and opium, each of which cover 5 per cent. of the *rabi* area. The area twice cropped in the year amounts to 20,849 acres or 29·78 per cent. of the net cultivation, a proportion which is only exceeded in the neighbouring pargana of Bhuili.

There are 610 villages in the pargana, and these are divided into 614 *mahals*. In 66 of these there are sub-proprietors, chiefly Muslim Gaharwars, the ancient overlords of the pargana, who hold jointly with the Maharaja; but with the exception of these villages and those which have been granted revenue-free, the whole tract is the absolute property of the Maharaja of Benares. Of the total holdings area in 1906-07 some 10 per cent. was held by proprietors, either as *sir* or *khudkasht*, nearly 5 per cent. by

privileged tenants, 30 per cent. by tenants with occupancy rights, and over 31 per cent. by tenants-at-will. In addition to this 17 per cent. of the area was held by tenants of more than 20 years' standing; and there were 3,104 acres of rent-free land, 1,249 acres of which were held in lieu of wages. Some 25 per cent. of the land included in holdings was sublet. A considerable area of land, paying rent to the value of Rs. 33,002, was in the same year let at grain rents; and for cash rented areas the rates ranged from Rs. 5-9-9 for *shikmi* tenants to Rs. 3-2-11 an acre for tenants with privileged rights. Occupancy tenants paid Rs. 4-3-10 an acre and tenants without occupancy rights, whether of more than twenty years' standing or not, Rs. 3-7-2 per acre. The cultivating body is made up of a large variety of castes, among which Brahmans, Rajputs, Ahirs, Chamars, Lunias and Koeris predominate.

The total population of Kera-Mangraur in 1881 numbered 67,451 persons, and this rose to 70,914 in 1891. At the last enumeration in 1901 there were 66,601 inhabitants, of whom 33,011 were females. Classified according to religion there were 61,602 Hindus, 4,995 Musalmans and four Sikhs. Chamars were the numerically strongest Hindu caste, numbering 10,335 souls; and after them came Ahirs, 9,499; Koeris, 5,717; and Brahmans 5,188. Other castes with over two thousands persons in each case were Rajputs and Lunias; while Lohars and Dusadhs closely approached that figure. The best represented of the Rajput clans were Bais, Raghubansis, Chandels and Gaharwars. Among the Musalmans, Julahas preponderated, their number being 1,285; and the other best represented sub-divisions were Sheikhs, Pathans, Nais and Fakirs. The tahsil is wholly agricultural in character, practically the entire population being dependent for its livelihood on agriculture or the trade in agricultural produce; there is no manufacture of any importance. Lists of the schools, post-offices, markets and fairs of the tahsil will be found in the appendix.

The pargana derives its name from the two villages Kera and Mangraur; but they are now insignificant places and the largest village is Sikandarpur, which has 1,917 inhabitants. There is no place which can be dignified by the name of town; Chakia, the administrative headquarters of the Maharaja's establishment,

is a place of no note, and the only other village with a population exceeding one thousand is Ilia. The uplands are very sparsely populated and there is nothing there which can rank as more than a hamlet. There is no metalled road in the whole pargana; the uplands are wholly without roads of any sort, while in the lowland unmetalled ways lead to Ahraura, Chandauli, Ramnagar and Chainpur, the last being in Shahabad, from the centre at Chakia.

In the days of Akbar, Mangraur, as it is called, was a pargana of *sarkar* Rohtas in the *subah* of Bihar. In the later periods of the empire it appears to have belonged to *sarkar* Shahabad; but the *zamindars* in any case were always Gaharwar Rajputs, and particularly that branch of the clan which had been converted to Islam. How Daim Khan, the last of them, was ejected by Balwant Singh has already been told in Chapter V. Balwant Singh after securing possession of the pargana by force obtained an *altamgha* or royal grant from the Emperor Alamgir II, by which the whole pargana was granted to him in perpetuity, free of revenue. It was by presenting this document that Raja Mahip Narayan Singh obtained a confirmation of the grant from Warren Hastings in 1781. The pargana is consequently exempt from revenue payment of any kind.

There are several ancient remains in the pargana. At Bhikampur, Sikandarpur and other places are the remnants of ancient forts, generally attributed to Gaharwars. Above the falls of the Karamnasa, near Chakia, in a very picturesque situation, is the tomb of Latif Shah, a distinguished Musalman saint, but the architecture of the monument is not commensurate with its sanctity. On the precipitous cliff overhanging the great fall of the Chandraprabha, there is a large enclosure, surrounded by a high wall of dressed stones. This is called by the people the *kot* or fortalice of Raja Purwa, and the fall is in consequence known as the Purwadari. The enclosure contains no buildings and was probably meant solely as a place of refuge and rendezvous in troublous times. At Muzaffarpur on the Chandraprabha, shortly after it issues from the hills, and where the dam which diverts its waters into the Bahachandra canal is erected, are the remains of a temple built of large dressed stones put together without cement. Lastly. more than one of the hill tops bears the half obliterated signs of

fortifications, which the people, probably with correctness, attribute to the vanished aboriginal races.

The tahsil of Chakia forms a criminal subdivision which is in the charge of the deputy superintendent of the Family Domains. The revenue and fiscal administration is carried on in the same manner as in Bhadohi. In police matters the jurisdiction belongs to the station at Chakia.

KHAIRWA, *Pargana* SINGRAULI, *Tahsil* ROBERTSGANJ.

Khairwa is a small village lying close to Gaharwargaon, the capital town of the pargana of Singrauli, in latitude 24°6′N. and longitude 82°49′E., It is distant 85 miles from Mirzapur and 60 miles south-south-west from Robertsganj. In 1901 it had a population of 240 persons, 42 of whom were Musalmans: the predominant Hindu castes were Brahmans and Khairwars. The village possesses a third class police station, pound, school and post-office; and a weekly market is held in it every Friday. Otherwise it is a place of no importance.

KHAMARIA, *Pargana* BHADOHI, *Tahsil* KORH.

Khamaria is a large village and market town on the borders of pargana Bhadohi and tappa Kon lying in latitude 25°15′N. and longitude 82°33′E. It is distant some 8 miles from Mirzapur and lies close to the metalled road from Mirzapur to Gopiganj. The village stands on the edge of some rising ground which marks what was once the north bank of the Ganges. The population has steadily increased during the last 30 years; in 1881 it numbered 2,065 persons, and the number rose to 2,131 in 1891. In 1901 there were 2,355 inhabitants, of whom 997 were Musalmans. The Musalman inhabitants are for the most part Julahas who are engaged in weaving carpets and cloth; and the place was once the headquarters of a large and flourishing indigo factory under European management which has now decayed. There is a post-office in the village and a primary sohool.

KON, *Pargana* AGORI, *Tahsil* ROBERTSGANJ.

Kon lies in latitude 24°26′N. and longitude 83°21′E., it is distant 90 miles south-east from Mirzapur and 40 miles south-east

from Robertsganj. It gives its name to a *taluqa* in the pargana of Agori, and contains a third-class police-station, pound and school. For some years it was administered under the provisions of Act XX of 1856, but owing to the continuous decline in the population the provisions of the Act were withdrawn in 1901. In 1881 there were 1,122 inhabitants: the number rose to 1,199 in 1891, but in 1901 it had fallen to 1,060. Classified according to religion there were 905 Hindus, 108 Musalmans, and 27 persons of other religions. A small weekly bazar is held in the place, but the trade is nearly all local. Roads lead from it to Pannuganj *via* Argarh and to Chopan, but in the case of the first the Son has to be crossed and in the case of the second the Kanhar river. It lies in the centre of a fertile valley which forms one of the three chief culturable tracts south of the Son river.

KON *Tappa, Tahsil* MIRZAPUR.

Tappa Kon forms a small tongue of land enclosed on two sides by the Ganges and on the third by pargana Bhadohi, lying on the north bank of the river opposite Mirzapur. The tappa has a total area which for the five years ending in 1907 averaged 24,833 acres or 18·8 square miles, the figure varying to some extent from year to year owing to changes in the course of the Ganges. It is devoid of physical features, being a level uniform plain of soft alluvial soil of great fertility.

Of the total area, 5,575 acres or 22·45 per cent. are recorded as barren, just half being land covered with water and 2,166 acres of the remainder waste which is unfit for cultivation. The culturable area which is not normally under the plough is very small and amounts to but 1,268 acres or 5·11 per cent. of the whole, out of which only 5 acres are recorded as culturable waste. Thus, practically the entire tappa has been brought at some time or other under the plough, the area actually under cultivation for the five years ending in 1907 being 17,990 acres or 72·44 per cent. of the whole. This proportion is a high one, but is somewhat less than in *taluqa* Majhwa and pargana Qariat Sikhar which are situated similarly to Kon on the north bank of the Ganges. The cultivation is intense and good, being stimulated by a dense population and the proximity of large markets. The *rabi* is the principal harvest

and covers on an average 10,868 acres as against 10,091 acres sown in the *kharif*, the area twice cropped in the year being some 3,096 acres or 17·24 per cent. of the net cultivation. Over 40 per cent. of the harvest is occupied by barley intermixed with gram, 32·61 per cent. by gram and 6·54 per cent. by barley alone. Wheat intermixed with barley or gram covers an additional 9·64 per cent. and three per cent. is sown with peas. *Bajra* in the chief crop grown in the autumn, occupying, in combination with *arhar*, 54·12 per-cent. of the whole area sown in the harvest. The only other crop of any importance is *juar* which, alone or similarly combined, covers 29·21 per cent. Irrigation is little practised in the tappa, the quinquennial average being but 393 acres; but owing to the situation of the land in close proximity to the Ganges, artificial irrigation is little needed as the crops derive sufficient moisture by capillary attraction.

The chief cultivating castes are Rajputs, Brahmans, Kurmis, Ahirs, Kewats, Pasis and Chamars. In 1907-08 over 33 per cent. of the land was included in proprietary holdings, 33·35 per cent. was held by tenants at fixed rates, 21·74 per cent. by ex-proprietary or occupancy tenants, and only 11·9 per cent. by tenants-at-will. As much at 47 per cent. of the land included in hodings is sublet, a proportion which is only exceeded in *taluqa* Majhwa. There is no land which is grain-rented in the tappa, and the tenants' cash rates range from Rs. 9-4-5 per acre for *shikmi* tenants to Rs. 4-8-1 for tenants holding at fixed rates. Occupancy tenants pay Rs. 5-8-6 and tenants-at-will Rs. 5-14-9 per acre.

At the permanent settlement tappa Kon was assessed to a demand of Rs. 39,628-11-6, being then described as "well-cultivated and altogether in a flourishing state." At the present time the revenue amounts to Rs. 38,777-4-0, to which an addition of Rs. 3,887-6-9 may be made on account of cesses. The incidence of the revenue is Rs. 2-11-11 per cultivated acre and is lower than that of any of the similarly situated tappas or *taluqas*. There are 91 villages in it, and these are divided into 263 *mahals*, the subdivision of the land being greater in Kon than in any other portion of the district. Of these *mahals*, 59 are in the hands of single *zamindars*; and 31 are held in joint *zamindari* tenure; while there are 55 perfect and 118 imperfect *pattidari* estates. Of

the various proprietary castes, Gaharwar Rajputs hold the largest area, amounting to 20,375 acres; and after them come Bhuinhars, Chandel Rajputs, Gosains and Kurmis. The largest landed proprietor is Saiyid Abdul Ghafur of Mirzapur, who owns six villages assessed to a demand of Rs. 2,623.

The population of tappa Kon in 1881 numbered 26,749 souls, and this fell to 26,394 in 1891. At the last census in 1901 there were 25,750 inhabitants, of whom 13,029 were females. Classified according to religion, Hindus numbered 25,236 and Musalmans 514, while there were no persons of other religions. There are no towns or large villages in the tappa, but many important bazars such as Aurai, Madho Singh, Khamaria and Gopiganj lie close to its border, and just across the river is the city of Mirzapur. Its communications are excellent. The two metalled roads, one leading to Jaunpur and the other joining the grand trunk road at Gopiganj, diverge at the ferry of Narghat and traverse it in the line of its greatest length, while an unmetalled road runs through Tilhati over the Ganges to Bijaipur on the road from Mirzapur to Bhatauli ferry, and the road from Mirzapur to Maharajganj traverses its easten border.

In the days of Akbar, tappa Kon was not a separate subdivision. It then formed a portion of Bhadohi and was detached from that pargana when Raja Sakat Singh of Kantit married the daughter of the Monas Rajput of Bhadohi, to whom it was given in dowry. At the present day it forms a portion of the Mirzapur tahsil for criminal and revenue purposes; while in police matters the jurisdiction is divided between the stations of Aurai, Gopiganj and the *sadr kotwali*.

KORH, *Pargana* BHADOHI, *Tahsil* KORH.

Korh is the present capital town of pargana Bhadohi. It is situated in 25° 20′ N. and 82° 28′ E., at a distance of 14 miles north-north-east from Gopiganj; its position is almost central as regards the rest of the pargana and for this reason it was selected by Raja Udit Narayan as the seat of his revenue establishments. Here are located the tahsil buildings, the court-house of the native commissioner and a fine two-storeyed house which stands on the north side of a masonry tank and was built by the Raja for his own

accommodation. The place contains also a post-office, dispensary, and an anglo-vernacular school.

Apart from the fact that Korh is now the headquarters of the pargana of Bhadohi, it is a place of no importance. A portion of the inhabited site is within the village limits of Gyanpur, and is often called by the latter name: while, though there are two bazars known respectively as Hariharganj and Kunwarganj, the place has little or no trade. The population of Korh is not separately recorded, but that of Gyanpur in 1901 numbered only 571 persons, 466 being Hindus, for the most part Kayasths, 88 being Musalmans and 17 being of other religions. In Hariharganj there were 778 inhabitants in 1901, 488 of whom were Hindus, 286 Musalmans and 4 of other religions, Sheikhs being the numerically strongest caste.

KORH *Tahsil.*

The Korh tahsil is conterminous with the pargana of Bhadohi, and all information regarding it will be found in the article on that pargana, to which reference should be made.

LALGANJ, *Tappa* UPRAUDH, *Tahsil* MIRZAPUR.

Lalganj lies on the great Deccan road in latitude 25° 1′N. and longitude 82° 22′E.; it is distant 16 miles south-west from Mirzapur. The unmetalled road to Ghorawal and Halia diverges from the great Deccan road at this point. Traders along the great Deccan road used to halt here in former days, and owing to this circumstance Lalganj obtained an importance which it would not have otherwise possessed The bazar is simply a collection of mean-looking houses which line the metalled road; there are no masonry buildings and there is very little trade. A military encamping ground is situated here and there is also a road inspection bungalow; while the village contains a police-station, post-office, pound and school.

MAJHWA, *Taluqa* MAJHWA, *Tahsil* CHUNAR.

The village of Majhwa is the nominal capital of the *taluqa* to which it gives its name; it lies in latitude 25° 13′N. and longitude 82° 44′E on the road from Benares to Mirzapur, at a distance of 12

miles north-east from the district headquarters. The village is entirely agricultural in character and consists of a collection of mud-built houses. It was formerly of some importance as a bazar, but is now overshadowed by Kachhwa, which is only two miles off. There is an aided school in the village.

MAJHWA *Taluqa, Tahsil* MIRZAPUR.

Taluqa Majhwa, like tappa Kon, lies on the north bank of the Ganges, which forms its southern boundary. Pargana Bhadohi bounds it on the west, pargana Qariat Sikhar of the Chunar tahsil on the east, while on the north and north-east lies pargana Kaswar in the Benares district. Like its neighbours, tappa Kon and Qariat Sikhar, *taluqa* Majhwa is a level, uniform plain lying in the basin of the Ganges and is practically devoid of physical features. The soil is a loam of great fertility sloping down to the river bank, along which there is much alluvial soil liable to inundation in the rainy season. The total area of Majhwa is subject to considerable annual variation owing to changes in the course of the Ganges, and a better idea of its conformation will be obtained by taking the statistics of a series of years. Thus for the five years from 1903 to 1907 the total area averaged 26,870 acres or 42 square miles. Of this 3,534 acres or 13·15 per cent. are recorded as barren waste, 718 acres being land unfit for cultivation and the remainder being covered with water or occupied by sites, roads, buildings and the like. In addition to this there were 3,304 acres of culturable land, forming 12·29 per cent. of the *taluqa*, out of which but 8 acres were land which had never been brought under the plough while 1,441 acres were grove-land. The latter figure forms a proportion of 5·36 per cent. on the total area of the *taluqa* and is the highest in the district. The quinquennial average for the cultivated area is 20,031 acres, the proportion being 74·54 per cent. and only exceeded elsewhere in parganas Bhuili and Qariat Sikhar. This is in itself sufficient to show that cultivation in the tract is very close and intense. Irrigation is practised to a greater extent in Majhwa than in any other subdivision of the district except Ahraura and Bhadohi, and normally 7,213 acres or 36 per cent. of the cultivated area is watered, almost entirely, as might be expected, from wells. The *rabi* is the principal harvest and covers on an average 12,555

acres as against 11,306 acres sown in the *kharif*. Crops are mixed to a smaller extent in Majhwa than in any other subdivision of the district. Thus barley alone occupies as much as 32·97 per cent., peas 17·86 per cent., gram 13·60 per cent. and wheat 8·59 per cent. of the area sown in the spring harvest; while 15·58 per cent. is occupied by barley intermixed with gram and 7·64 per cent. by wheat intermixed with barley or with gram. In the *kharif* the foremost place is taken by rice, which is grown in 23·65 per cent. of the area devoted to this harvest. Next comes *juar*, alone or intermixed with *arhar*, 22·27 per cent., and *bajra*, alone or similarly combined, 20·84 per cent., no other crop being of any importance. The area twice cropped within the year is larger than that of any other subdivision of the Mirzapur tahsil and averaged, for the five years ending in 1907, 3,881 acres or 19·37 per cent. of the net cultivation.

Among the cultivators Bhuinhars predominate, and after them come Brahmans, Kurmis, Kewats and Chamars. In 1907-08 some 16·31 per cent. of the land was included in proprietary holdings, 67·97 per cent. was held by tenants at fixed rates, 8·15 per cent. by ex-proprietary or occupancy tenants, and only 6·49 per cent. by tenants-at-well, the small remainder being rent-free. The proportion of land in the hands of fixed-rate tenants is the highest in the district and elsewhere is not even closely approached. No less than 49 per cent. of the land included in holdings is sublet, this figure being only exceeded in pargana Qariat Sikhar. Some 284 acres are grain rented, and the cash rate ranges from the high figure of Rs. 11-1-8 an acre for *shikmi* tenants to Rs. 2-5-8 an acre for tenants-at-will. The latter rent is a low one and is due to the fact that all the best land has long ago been appropriated, either for *sir* or by the old statutory tenants. Tenants at fixed rates pay Rs. 4-1-5 and occupancy tenants Rs. 4-2-8 an acre.

At the time of the permanent settlement the demand assessed on the *taluqa* amounted to Rs. 57,443-7-0. This has since been reduced owing to diluvion and other causes, and in 1907-08 the demand stood at Rs. 48,971-1-6, to which an addition of Rs. 4,591-1-0 may be made on account of cesses. The incidence of the demand is Rs. 2-12-4 per acre of cultivation and is the highest in the tahsil. There are 48 villages in the *taluqa*, and

these are divided into 76 *mahals*. Of the latter 51 are in the hands of single *zamindars*; 14 are held in joint *zamindari* and but 11 in *pattidari* tenure, 4 being of the perfect and 7 of the imperfect form. Of the various proprietary castes, Bhuinhars hold the largest area, and next to them come Gaharwar Rajputs and Gosains. The Bhuinhars are represented by the Maharaja of Benares.

The population of *taluqa* Majhwa in 1881 numbered 35,751 persons and this fell to 32,735 in 1891. At the last census in 1901 there was a small rise to 32,902, of whom 16,748 were females. Classified according to religion, there were 31,725 Hindus, 1,073 Musalmans and 104 persons of other religions. The only town in the taluqa is Kachhwa, which is administered under the provisions of Act XX of 1856, and there are several other large villages with over 1,000 inhabitants in each case. Such are Bajha, Baraini, Ahi, Bhainsa, Garauli, Mahalpur, Majhwa and Mital; but they are merely agricultural estates. There are no metalled roads in the tract; but the grand trunk road passes close to the north-western border and the road from Mirzapur to Benares is metalled as far as the river crossing at Bhatauli. This road continues across Majhwa and is intersected at Kachhwa by the unmetalled road from Chunar to the grand trunk road near Debiganj.

Majhwa takes its name from the village of that name which is the third largest village in the *taluqa*. It was originally one of the three subdivisions of pargana Kaswar in the Benares district and was held in 1783 A.D., when Nawab Murtaza Khan obtained the Benares province in *jagir*, in *zamindari* by Bairon Lal and Dariao Singh, Gautam Rajputs. They had a high position at the court of Mir Rustam Ali, the deputy governor of the province under Murtaza Khan, but they refused persistently to recognise the rising influence of Mansa Ram, attaching themselves to Fateh Singh, another confidential adviser of Mir Rustam Ali. As Mansa Ram's influence increased he gradually managed to estrange the latter from the Majhwa *taluqdars*; and ultimately the two brothers retired from court to their estates. Here they collected their followers and prepared for active hostilities with Mansa Ram. Fateh Singh, however, refused to help them, and the brothers in revenge plundered some of his villages, taking two forts,

ejecting his *amils* and killing the garrisons. Fateh Singh accordingly joined forces with Mansa Ram and attacked the brothers, who were ultimately defeated and killed. Beni Singh, the son of Bairon Lal, and Sheo Baksh, son of Dariao, now fled to their kinsmen in Bettiah and joined Ali Quli Khan in hostilities against Raja Balwant Singh. Sheo Baksh lost his life in some stray encounter, but Beni Singh returned to Majhwa, where he died leaving one son, Pahlwan Singh. The latter married his son, Gurdatt Singh, to the daughter of Babu Ajaib Singh. Through the latter's influence he was enabled to come to Benares, and was restored to his paternal domains in the capacity of *sazawal*.

The first settlements were made with Pahlwan Singh and his brother, in the form of leases. But they fell into arrears with their revenue and in 1796 they conveyed all their interests in the *taluqa* to Raja Mahip Narayan Singh. The latter retained the right to collect the revenue from the subordinate proprietors until the year 1836, when the management was transferred to the collector.

For criminal and revenue purposes taluqa Majhwa is included at the present day in the tahsil of Mirzapur. In police matters the jurisdiction is divided between the stations at Aurai and Kachhwa.

MARIAHAN, *Tappa* CHAURASI, *Tahsil* MIRZAPUR.

This village lies in latitude 24° 56′N. and longitude 82° 41′E., at a distance of 18 miles south-east from Mirzapur. The road from Mirzapur as far as the village is metalled, while the roads which diverge from it, the one to Ghorawal *via* Kalwari and the other to Robertsganj *via* Hindubari, are unmetalled. The village itself is a very small and poor one, the population in 1901 only numbering 183 persons, all of whom were Hindus. But the place is centrally situated at the junction of two lines of communication and has a road-inspection bungalow. There are also a police-station, post-office and pound in the place. Quantities of *pan* are grown in the neighbourhood. The majority of the Hindu inhabitants are Lunias by caste.

MIRZAPUR, *Tahsil* MIRZAPUR.

The headquarters of the district are situated on the right bank of the Ganges in latitude 25°9′N., and longitude 82°35′E. Position.

It is by far the largest and most important town within the boundaries of the district to which it gives its name, and is distant 55 miles by rail from Allahabad, 46 miles from Benares, and 509 miles from Calcutta. Roads radiate from it in all directions and lead to Jaunpur on the north, to Chunar and Benares on the east, to Mariahan and Ghorawal, and to Rewah on the south, and to Gopiganj, where the grand trunk road is met, on the north-west. The East Indian railway passes close to the town and connects it with Calcutta and Allahabad. The Bengal and North-Western Railway has lately opened a branch with a station at Nadghat on the north bank of the Ganges.

Population. The first census of any accuracy from which the number of the inhabitants of the city can be gauged was that of 1853, when they amounted to 64,081; but this figure, like that of the census of 1865, when 71,849 persons were enumerated, comprised only the population of the city proper. The boundaries of the municipality were subsequently extended so as to include, besides many suburban villages, the considerable town of Bindhachal; and for this extended area complete statistics are only available since 1872. In that year there were 67,274 persons residing within municipal limits; in 1881 the total had increased to 85,362, but by 1891 had fallen to 84,130. At the last enumeration in 1901 Mirzapur contained 79,862 inhabitants, of whom 40,147 were females. Mirzapur is thus in point of size the eighth city of the United Provinces, being surpassed by Lucknow, Benares, Cawnpore, Agra, Allahabad, Bareilly and Meerut. Of the population residing within the limits of the municipality 66,014 were Hindus, 13,182 Musalmans, 310 Christians, 144 Aryas, 143 Jains and 59 Sikhs. The Hindu element is made up of representatives of a great variety of castes, the chief being Brahmans and Ahirs with over 5,000 members apiece; and Chamars, Kewats, Kalwars, Kaseras, Telis and Kayasths, all of whom occurred in numbers exceeding 2,000. Among Musalmans, Sheikhs largely predominate, followed by Julahas and Pathans. The occupations of the people are varied. Chief among them comes the supply and manufacture of material substances, accounting for 34·03 per cent. of the population. This class includes a large variety of persons, 31·73 being engaged in the preparation and

supply of articles of food and drink, 19·28 per cent. in work in metals and precious stones, 16·13 per cent. in drugs, gums, spices, lac and similar things, and 15·61 per cent. in textile industries. As has already been mentioned, several industries flourish at Mirzapur, and though the city is not what it was as a commercial centre it still retains a considerable amount of trade. The commercial population numbered 5·85 per cent., a high figure which testifies to the position which Mirzapur holds as a collecting and distributing centre; and those employed in transport and storage 3·78 per cent. Of the rest of the population, 20·33 per cent. belong to the class of unskilled labourers other than agricultural, 17·25 per cent. earn their livelihood by pasture or agriculture, and 8·08 per cent. by personal and domestic service. The remainder comprise those who follow a professional career, 4·96 per cent.; those in Government or municipal service, 3·40 per cent.; and those who have means of livelihood independent of any occupation, 2·32 per cent.; the last being a large class which includes beggars, pensioners, and inhabitants of jails as well as those who have no need to earn a livelihood. The boundaries of the municipality were however revised after the year 1901, and the present population of the municipal area is 66,071. Some account of the manufactures of the city has already been given in Chapter II and need not be repeated here.

History.

There is little separate history connected with the city. It was at the beginning of the 19th century an important emporium of trade, but its commercial growth and decline are both comprised within the limits of the last hundred years. The very name Mirzapur indicates that it was not founded till Mughal times, probably in the reign of Shahjahan. Till then Kantit and Bindhachal were both important places; and if the tradition that the latter was destroyed by Aurangzeb be credited, the foundation of Mirzapur is not likely to have taken place till late in the seventeenth century. The earliest mention of the city is to be found in the writings of Tieffenthaler, who drew up his description of India between 1760 and 1770: he mentions it, under the name of Mirzapur the greater, as a mart which had two *ghats* giving access to the Ganges. In the records of Mr. Jonathan Duncan, who was resident at Benares between 1787 and 1795, frequent

mention is made of the place. Mr. Duncan informs us that before 1781 the principal merchants with the Deccan were of the Sannyasi sect; these resided at Benares and transported their goods to Mirzapur, there to sell them to other members of their own sect who came annually from the Deccan to buy them. The establishment of the custom-house at Benares, which levied a transit duty of 5 per cent., nearly drove the Sannyasis out of the trade; but the rate of duty was shortly afterwards reduced to 2½ per cent. on raw silk, a principal article of the trade, and for a time they struggled against difficulties.* Matters were improved by the appointment in 1788 of a judge-magistrate, who had his headquarters at Mirzapur, the first person invested with the functions of this office being a Hindu by name Lala Bakshi Singh. New rules were at the same time published regarding the duties on foreign and inland trade, many cesses and exactions being abolished, a measure which, wrote the resident, "could not but in some measure awaken the sensibility of minds the most obdurate." In 1789, the Governor General sanctioned the introduction of "fees and a commission to government on the hearing of cases, to check the licentiousness of complainants," but the jurisdiction of the judge-magistrate was confined to the town and suburbs. In these early days the trade of Mirzapur was chiefly in cotton, which poured into it from Central India along the great highroad to the Deccan. Its importance rapidly increased with the introduction of steam-navigation; for it lay at the highest point on the Ganges to which the larger steamers could ascend, and, besides cotton from the south, country produce of all sorts was brought down the Jumna and Ganges in country-boats to be carried by steamer to Calcutta; while sugar, piece goods and metals were brought upstream for distribution in exchange. The subsequent history of Mirzapur was one of continued commercial prosperity until 1864, the year in which the East Indian railway was opened to the Jumna bank at Allahabad. As steamers could not compete in rapidity or security with the railway, the latter soon absorbed the trade of the city; and that year marked the first step in its decline. Gradually the railway tapped the upcountry trade and Mirzapur ceased to be the great emporium

* Shakespear's Duncan Records, Vol. II, pp. 17-21.

of trade for Upper India. From this blow it never recovered; nor is it at the present day a trade mart of great importance.

The city itself which lies longitudinally near the centre of the municipal area, is situated on one of the large bends which characterise the course of the Ganges in the district. The site has the advantage of sloping slightly in an inland direction, the highest ground in the whole city being found in the bluffs which overhang the river. The river banks are solid and lasting, there being an almost continuous reef of *kankar* at or below the water-line. The river frontage, though picturesque and handsome, is not imposing. No buildings of great size or boldness of outline rise from the water; and the *ghats* or landing-places, though numbering more than a score, both great and small, are with three or four exceptions small in size and of unpretentious design; while many from the insecurity of their foundations are in various stages of ruin and decay. But the clusters of temples at Bariaghat and Narghat, and the graceful arcades, massive piers, and broad stairways of the *Pakka ghat* are worthy of more than passing notice. But it is only here and there that such structures grace the water-side. The intervals are filled with lines of bluffs surmounted with the meanest habitations; and the finest site along the whole line, that whose name, the Kot, recalls the memory of an entirely obliterated and forgotten entrenchment is occupied only by the dismal ruins of immense warehouses, which were once filled to the roof with the cotton of Central India.

General appearance.

Nor is the interior of the city more striking. Although there is a general air of solidity and massiveness about the buildings, which attests the wealth and prosperity of its builders, there is at the same time generally an appearance of decline which shows equally plainly that that great wealth is a thing of past. There are few buildings of note, the only ones whose towers break the sky-line being a couple of mosques of no great pretensions, the larger of which the town owes to a Musalman lady, who was an inhabitant of Mirzapur and bequeathed to posterity not only this building but also the funds wherewith to erect a fine and commodious *sarai*.

The growth of the town from a cluster of houses round Narghat and the fort which commanded the ferry, can easily be traced. The original town appears to have spread east and west

along the line of thoroughfares roughly parallel with the river, known now as Purani Bazazi, Tirmohani, Sati Bazar and Chetganj. Starting west from Narghat, one at once enters the latter *muhalla*, which is a crowded collection of houses, with a few deserted cotton presses and warehouses to tell of former commercial activity. Beyond the outfall of the Khandwa *nala* one leaves the city proper and enters upon a long range of walled gardens, extending along both sides of the road as far as the Ujla river, which may be taken as the western boundary of suburban Mirzapur. These gardens are many of them approached by lofty and profusely decorated gateways, and adorned with handsome and commodious summer houses. They are still called by names which recall the palmy days of the Mirzapur of the past. There is one still known by the name of that Lala or Lallu Naik who was once one of the earliest, as he was the wealthiest and most public spirited, of the great merchants of the city. But few of these pleasaunces remain in the families of their founders and fewer still are adequately maintained by their present owners. The whole line is a striking example of the instability of commercial fortunes.

Southward from Narghat, the city stretches now as far as the line of railway. But the more southern *muhallas*, with the exception of the broad and gated Katra Baji Rai, are later extensions, and have never been commercially important. The original merchants' quarter seems to have been bounded on the west by the fine thoroughfare of Muzaffarganj, leading to the old Deccan gate, the site of which can still be traced, and thence southward and eastward by the line of the Khandwa *nala* and the depressions it formerly drained, which is now marked by the spacious bazar of McChleryganj, almost in the centre of the present city, and the broad road leading thence to the present outfall. Within this area, again, the centre of business was the Bundelkhand quarter, a mass of lofty, substantial, and handsome houses once the places of business of the leading houses in the Deccan transit trade. The streets of this quarter are narrow and tortuous, admitting none but pedestrian traffic, and formerly defended by loophole gateways, several of which remain at every exit. But here again the same tale of decadence is everywhere

present. Most of the houses are tenantless : some in ruins: and the very materials of others have been seized, sold, and carried away to satisfy the demands of hungry creditors. The same remarks will apply almost equally well to the immediately surrounding *muhallas*, the most remarkable of which is that of Madho Ram, now more familiarly known as Gosaintola, from the lofty residence of the Gosain merchants, who were among the wealthiest of the community. Eastward of this lie Pasarhatta, the spice market, Kasarhatta, the brass founder's quarter, the city police station and Wellesleyganj, the busiest part of the city. The whole street which comprises the Kotwali *muhalla* is a double line of thriving shops, amongst which the dealers in hardware are conspicuous. At right angles to Wellesleyganj runs Duncanganj, recalling in its name the memory of the great administrator of Benares, and this is the principal thoroughfare to the railway. It has already been remarked that striking buildings are few. The townhall, handsomely constructed of stone, chiefly from voluntary contributions, is an effective building and its tower is a conspicuous object on the sky line. The mosque and *sarai* of Ganga Bibi have previously been alluded to; the latter is a commodious building, erected in the Gothic style from designs by Major Kittoe, R.E., and containing a particularly graceful canopied well. The public buildings comprise a male and female dispensary, the church and schools of the London Mission, several schools and similar institutions ; but the chief ornaments of the city are rather the facades of the larger private houses ; the *chauks* or squares, built in a uniform design at the Kotwali, at McChleryganj and at Denisonganj ; and the numerous elaborately carved stone temples, which everywhere abound, and of which those at the *pakka ghat*, the Tirmohani *ghat* and Bindeshari Prasad's temple may be cited as the best examples.

The civil station. The civil station stretches along a single road to the north-east of the city, parallel with the river. In addition to the houses of the official and private residents, there are the church, schools and orphanage of the London Mission, the public offices, which comprise separate court-houses for the district officers, the judge and his subordinates, and the deputy superintendent of the Family Domains. There is also a church, a small elegant building of

stone in the old English style, planned by Colonel Edward Smith and built about 1830 at a cost of Rs. 5,400. Beyond the civil station once lay the cantonments, but of these no vestige now remains but the parade ground and one or two of the old bungalows now occupied by civil residents. No regiment has been stationed at Mirzapur since the Mutiny.

Administration. The affairs of the area included within the municipal limits at Mirzapur are administered by a board of 16 members, excluding an elected chairman, twelve of whom are elected from the various wards in the city and four of whom are nominated. Reference to this board and other matters has already been made in Chapter IV. These it is unnecessary to recapitulate here; and it only remains to describe the schemes recently undertaken for more effectively draining the city and providing it with a better water supply. Before the completion of the recent scheme, the city was surface drained by side drains running on each side of the roads alongside the plinths of the houses. These were apparently laid down piecemeal as the extension of the streets made them necessary, without any regard for the provision of such gradients as would have made interception simple. For the interception of the sullage water from these side-drains and its conveyance to the Ganges, seven underground sewers were laid down in past times. These were invariably evolved from the *nalas* which originally received the sullage, having first been roughly inverted, then covered with stone slabs and finally buried under refuse and built over. In 1903 the municipal board got a scheme prepared for remodelling the surface drainage, regrading and re-inverting the existing under-ground sewers; providing an unfiltered water supply for flushing purposes and road-watering, and for remaking and repairing the municipal roads, the whole to cost the sum of Rs. 3,19,398. The project was prepared in parts so that it could be carried out piecemeal. The first two objects, namely the improvement of the surface drainage and the underground sewers, were estimated to cost Rs. 1,00,262; while a pumping station and the provision of a water supply was to cost Rs. 1,98,560, the expenditure on roads amounting to an additional Rs. 20,575. Administrative sanction was accorded to the whole scheme in July 1903; but soon after, owing to objections

taken by the sanitary commissioner to the discharge of the sullage water polluted as it was by extraneous matter, into the Ganges near the bathing, *ghats*, the scheme was reconsidered. At an informal conference it was decided that, as the cost of an intercepting sewer to convey the sullage to a point below the *ghats*, was prohibitive, any underground connection between private houses and the existing sewers should be cut off, that their place should be taken by surface drains, that the existing sewers should be turned into surface drains, and that septic tanks should be provided for the filtration of the water before it entered the Ganges. A revised estimate prepared with a view to carrying out these objects was found to involve an expenditure of Rs. 1,59,566 on surface drains and Rs. 40,023 on under ground sewers. At the same time the board decided to abandon the flushing scheme originally proposed and to take up in its place a project for supplying water for drinking as well as for flushing purposes. Sanction was accorded to the revised scheme at the end of 1905 and the work was carried out during the next two years with the help of a loan of two lakhs from the Government, with the result that the city was provided with a very complete and up-to-date system of surface drainage. But it was very soon found that the hand flushing resorted to in the absence of a pipe supply of water was quite inadequate to prevent the pollution of the sullage with other obnoxious solid matter, and in 1908 the board, as a result of the objections of the sanitary commissioner, once more took up the idea of constructing waterworks. A rough estimate for these showed that the cost would be about Rs. 4,70,000, a sum which was beyond the resources of the municipal board, now hampered with the repayment of loans ; and a proposal to raise the money by an additional loan guaranteed by increased octroi taxation did not meet with the approval of the Government. The scheme for these water works contemplated the pumping of the water from the Ganges river, the daily supply being ten gallons per head and the yearly expenditure Rs. 15,000 ; but a short time after, the attention of the board was directed to the feasibility of a gravitation scheme from a reservoir at the foot of the hills to the south. At the request of the board the project was investigated by Mr. S. D'O. Darley, an officer of the Irrigation department, who

found that a dam could be built on the Baginar river about two miles above Tanda Dari, forming a reservoir containing sufficient water to give a supply of 20 gallons a day per head of population. The water could be run down the channel of the river to Tanda Dari, where the filter beds would be situated, and conveyed thence to a service reservoir near the city, the whole scheme to cost roughly Rs. 2,40,000 exclusive of the cost of filters, settling tanks and distribution pipes. The project was further considered by the sanitary engineer who found that the cost of the latter would involve an additional expenditure of about Rs. 2,65,000, but would be justified in consideration of the doubling of the supply per head; and in May 1909 the sanction of the Government was accorded to the preparation of detailed plans and estimates. When the latter are complete the question will again come up for decision, and it is expected that the city will soon be furnished with such a water supply as will ensure the effective flushing of its drains as well as provide for the drinking water of the inhabitants.

MIRZAPUR *Tahsil.*

The headquarters tahsil lies in the north-western portion of the district between the parallels of 24° 36′ and 25°17′N. and 82° 7′ and 82°50′E. It comprises the subdivisions known as tappas Kon, Chhiyanve, Chaurasi and Upraudh, and the *taluqa* of Majhwa, the first and last being situated on the north bank of the Ganges and the remainder to the south. Pargana Bhadohi and the Benares district bound the tahsil on the north; tahsil Chunar on the east; the Rewah state on the south; and the Allahabad district on the west. The larger part of the tahsil comprised in Upraudh and the south of Chaurasi, is situated above the Vindhyan plateau, the characteristics of the tract being generally an undulating expanse of poor soil overlying a substratum of rock, except in the valley of the Belan river, where the circumstances are more favourable for the deposit of alluvium. That river is the chief drainage channel of this tract and by means of numerous tributaries carries off the surface water westwards into the Allahabad district. The lowland portion of the tahsil is separated from the upland by an abrupt but generally low escarpment, the northern boundary

of the Vindhyans. The soil is the ordinary Gangetic alluvium, affected to some extent in the neighbourhood of the hills by the detritus of rock, but, elsewhere and especially near the river, a rich loam, which attains its greatest fertility in the subdivisions lying north of the stream. Several streams traverse this portion of the tahsil, carrying off the drainage of the southern hills and being responsible for some deterioration; but there is nothing else to diversify the monotonous landscape of the plains, and in Kon and Majhwa even streams are absent. Owing to changes in the course of the Ganges the area of the tahsil varies slightly every year; but the average of the five years ending in 1907 was 7,58,270 acres or 1,185 square miles. Of this, 154,934 acres or 20·43 per cent. were returned as barren, 100,628 acres being barren land unfit for cultivation and the remainder covered with water or occupied by sites, roads, buildings and the like. The culturable area amounted to 327,126 acres or 43·14 per cent. of the tahsil, 182,066 acres or 24 per cent. coming under the head of old fallow and 73,863 acres or 9·74 per cent. under that of culturable waste. The average area annually cultivated between 1903 and 1907 was 276,210 acres. This forms a proportion of 36·43 per cent. on total area and is below the average for the surveyed portion of the district. The area irrigated too averages but 22,684 acres or 8·21 per cent. of the cultivation and is much below the district average. The *kharif* is the principal harvest, covering 178,641 acres as against 138,734 acres sown in the *rabi*. The spring harvest exceeds the autumn in Kon, Majhwa and Chhiyanve, but in Upraudh and Chaurasi the opposite is the case. The chief crops grown are rice, especially in Upraudh, Chaurasi and Majhwa, *juar* or *bajra*, generally intermixed with *arhar*, especially in Kon and Chhiyanve but also in Majhwa and Chaurasi, maize, *til* and small millets or pulses. Gram generally occupies the largest area in the spring harvest; and after this comes barley, while large areas are normally devoted to barley intermixed with gram. Wheat is only important in Majhwa, Chaurasi and Upraudh; but in each subdivision a substantial area is generally occupied by wheat in combination either with barley or with gram. Linseed and peas are the only other crops in the *rabi* which deserve mention. The area twice-cropped within the year averages 41,710

acres or 15·10 per cent. of the net cultivation. This proportion is again below that of the surveyed portion of the district; so that altogether Mirzapur tahsil is behind the bulk of the district in fertility and development. This, however, is largely due to the fact that it contains so large a portion of the hilly and inferior portions of the district.

The chief cultivating castes are Brahmans, Rajputs, Ahirs, Chamars, Kurmis, Pasis and Koeris. In 1907-08 some 22 per cent. of the land was included in proprietary holdings, whether as *sir* or *khudkasht*, 20·79 per cent. was held by tenants at fixed rates, 17·79 per cent. by ex-proprietary or occupancy tenants, and 38·59 per cent. by tenants-at-will. In the same year 24 per cent. of the area included in holdings was sublet. Just one per cent. of the holdings area was rent free, and 7,738 acres, nearly all in Chaurasi and Upraudh, were grain-rented. Tenants' cash rents varied from Rs. 6-3-3 an acre for *shikmi* tenants to Re. 1-15-9 for tenants-at-will. Tenants at fixed rates paid Rs. 3-4-2 and occupancy tenants Rs. 2-10-3 an acre. There are 1,285 villages in the tahsil and these are divided into 1,735 *mahals*. Of the latter 756 are in the hands of single *zamindars*; 381 are held in joint *zamindari* and 598 in *pattidari* tenure, 78 being of the perfect and 520 of the imperfect form. Of the various proprietary castes Gaharwar Rajputs hold the largest area, amounting to 346,050 acres. After them come Bhuinhars, Gosains, Kurmis and Chandel Rajputs. Much of this area, especially in reference to Gaharwars, Bhuinhars and Gosains, is owned by single proprietors, such as the Raja of Kantit, the Maharaja of Benares, and Gosain Narayan Gir of Benares.

The population of the Mirzapur tahsil in 1881 numbered 377,331 souls, and this fell to 372,015 in 1891. At the last enumeration in 1901 there were 332,340 inhabitants, of whom 169,481 were females. Classified according to religions, Hindus numbered 307,554, Musalmans 23,994, Christians 352, Jains 221, Aryas 148, Sikhs 61 and Parsis ten. Brahmans were the numerically strongest Hindu caste, comprising 51,064 persons, and after them came Chamars, 42,372; Ahirs 23,394; Kewats 21,311; Rajputs 14,119; Kols 12,697; Koeris 11,840; and Banias 10,939. Other castes with over five thousand members apiece were Pasis, Gadariyas,

Telis, Lohars, Bhuinhars, Kumhars. Kayasths, Kahars, Kalwars, Mallahs and Nais; while Lunias, Dhobis, Gonds, Dharkars, Sonars, Bhars and Khatiks all exceeded two thousand in each case. The Rajputs belonged to a large variety of clans, the best represented being the Gaharwar, Bais, Surajbansi, Bisen, Chauhan and Raghubansi. Among the Musalmans, Julahas and Sheikhs numbered more than 5,000 in each case, and the only other subdivisions with over one thousand members were Pathans, Behnas and Darzis. Outside Mirzapur city, the population is entirely agricultural in character, and there are no manufactures of any importance. Lists of the schools, post-offices, markets and fairs of the tahsil will be found in the appendix.

Mirzapur tahsil is fairly well supplied with means of communication. The East Indian Railway traverses the northern portion and has stations at Dagmagpur, Pahari, Jhingura, Mirzapur, Bindhachal, Birohi, Gaipura and Jigna within its limits. Metalled roads lead to Gopiganj on the grand trunk road, to Bhatauli ghat and to Jaunpur north of Mirzapur; and to Rewah and Mariahan south of the river; and there are several short approach roads as well. These are supplemented by unmetalled roads, the chief being those from Lalganj to Ghorawal, Lalganj to Halia, Chunar to Debiganj on the grand trunk road, Bhatauli ghat towards Benares, and Mirzapur to Allahabad and to Chunar. The passage of the river is effected by means of several ferries, a list of which will be found in the appendix. Other details regarding the tahsil will be found in the separate articles on the tappas which compose it.

For criminal and revenue purposes the tahsil forms a subdivision which is generally in the charge of a full-powered officer on the district staff. In police matters, the jurisdiction is divided between the stations at Mirzapur, Gaipura, Bindhachal, Lalganj, Drummondgunj, Halia, Mariahan, Chunar, Pahari, Kachhwa, Aurai and Gopiganj.

MIRZAPUR KHURD, *Vide* CHHOTA MIRZAPUR.

NAI BAZAR, *Pargana* BHADOHI, *Tahsil* KORH.

This is an agricultural village situated near the Barna river in latitude 25°25′N. and longitude 82°35′E. The metalled road from

Mirzapur to Jaunpur runs about a mile to the east of the village, which lies 23 miles north from Mirzapur, 9 miles north-east from Korh, and 2 miles north-east from Bhadohi. It has sprung into existence, as its name denotes, within recent years. It was founded in 1761 by Babu Sujan Singh, brother of Raja Chet Singh, but it owes its present prosperity chiefly to the encouragement of Raja Udit Narayan. The place is the centre of a small sugar-refining industry and there is a number of establishments of Halwais and Kalwars. Nai Bazar contains a post-office and a lower primary school, and a weekly bazar is held in it. The population has somewhat declined, for in 1881 it numbered 2,675 souls, whereas in 1901 there were only 2,210 inhabitants, 531 of whom were Musalmans.

NARAYANPUR, *Pargana* BHUILI, *Tahsil* CHUNAR.

This is a small village lying in 25°12′N. and 83°2′E., distant 34 miles east-north-east from Mirzapur, 11 miles north-east from Chunar, and 12 miles north from Ahraura. The place has a railway station on the East Indian railway which is known as the Ahraura Road station, and is one of the chief outlets for the trade of the district, but it is otherwise a place of no importance. In 1901 the population numbered 154 persons, of whom only two were Musalmans.

NAUGARH *Taluqa, Pargana* KERA-MANGRAUR, *Tahsil* CHAKIA.

Taluqa Naugarh forms the southern portion of the pargana of Kera-Mangraur. It is not a subdivision recognised as having an independent existence, and all the information available regarding it will be found in the article on pargana Kera-Mangraur.

PAHARI, *Tappa* CHAURASI, *Tahsil* MIRZAPUR.

This is a small village which is also known as Pandri, gives its name to a railway station on the East Indian railway, and lies at a distance of 10 miles east from Mirzapur in latitude 25°7′N. and longitude 82°49′E. The population in 1901 numbered 580 persons, of whom 7 were Muhammadans. In addition to this there were 37 persons, of whom 15 were Muhammadans, residing in the precincts of the railway station. There are a police station, pound and post-office in the village. The prevailing Hindu caste is that of Ahirs.

PANNUGANJ, *Pargana* BIJAIGARH, *Tahsil* ROBERTSGANJ.

A small hamlet situated in latitude 24°40′N. and longitude 83°16′E. at the junction of several pack bullock tracks leading from the south and into Naugarh, the most important of which is that which leads to Kon and Dudhi *via* Argarh. It is distant 62 miles south-east from Mirzapur and 12 miles east from Robertsganj. The population is small and in 1901 only numbered 91 persons, 4 of whom were Musalmans. There are a third-class police station, post-office and pound in the village.

PATITA, *Pargana* BHAGWAT, *Tahsil* CHUNAR.

Patita is a small village lying in latitude 25°3′N. and longitude 82°58′E. ,at a distance of 32 miles south-east from Mirzapur and 12 miles south-east from Chunar. The village had in 1901 a population of 1,098 persons, 254 of whom were Muhammadans, but it is only interesting and important because of the large mud fort which exists in it. It was one of the principal strongholds of the Musalman *zamindars* of Bhagwat and was captured in 1752 A.D. by Balwant Singh from Jamiat Khan, the proprietor at that time. In 1781 A.D., during the operations conducted by Warren Hastings against Chet Singh, the place was stormed and captured by Major Popham. Details of both sieges have been given in Chapter V.

QARIAT SIKHAR, *Pargana* QARIAT SIKHAR, *Tahsil* CHUNAR.

The village of Qariat Sikhar, which gives its name to the pargana, lies in latitude 25°7′N. and longitude 82°49′E. It is distant 16 miles from Mirzapur and three miles from Chunar, and is situated about two miles away from the north-bank of the Ganges. The place is only an agricultural village, but it contains a post-office and an upper primary school: there is also an encamping ground. The population, which numbered 881 souls in 1881, had risen to 1,006 in 1901, 63 persons being Musalmans. Brahmans and Chamars are numerically the strongest Hindu castes.

QARIAT SIKHAR *Pargana*, *Tahsil* CHUNAR.

Pargana Qariat Sikhar, like tappa Kon and *taluqa* Majhwa, lies on the north bank of the Ganges, opposite the town of Chunar

in a bend of the river. The latter forms its boundary on the southern and eastern sides, while on the north lies pargana Kaswar of the Benares district and on the north-west *taluqa* Majhwa of tahsil Mirzapur. The country is flat and its appearance is almost wholly devoid of attractions, except when the crops are on the ground. The latter are so luxuriant as almost to make amends for its deficiencies in other picturesque qualities; for the land throughout is a rich loam of great fertility, the surface of which is unbroken by any streams. Only in the north-eastern corner is it at all inferior; for here there are, in the vicinity of the the river, some ravines and the earth is mixed with *kankar*.

The total area varies somewhat from year to year owing to changes in the course of the river; but for the five years ending in 1907 was returned on an average at 28,568 acres or nearly 45 square miles. Ot this, 5,559 acres or 19·46 per cent. were recorded as barren, but only 524 acres were land unfit for cultivation, the remainder being covered with roads, sites, buildings, and the like. The culturable area out of cultivation amounts to 1,635 acres or 5·72 per cent. of the whole, the bulk of it being old fallow. The quinquennial average of cultivated area is 21,374 acres or 74·82 per cent., a proportion which is only exceeded in Bhuili; while the cultivation itself is of a high-class order. Irrigation, it is true, is but little practised, the average area irrigated being but 286 acres; but, owing to the situation of the pargana on the banks of the Ganges, the crops derive sufficient moisture by capillary attraction and artificial irrigation is but little needed. The *rabi* is the principal harvest and covers on an average 13,089 acres as against 12,687 in the *kharif*. The chief crop grown in the spring is gram, which occupies 37·34 per cent. of the area sown in the harvest. An additional 22·49 per cent. is devoted to barley and gram intermixed and 16·44 per cent. is occupied by wheat in combination with one or other of those crops. Wheat alone is sown only in an infinitesimal area, but barley alone covers 9·73 per cent. of the harvest. In the *kharif*, *juar* and *bajra*, generally intermixed with *arhar*, occupy between them 76·29 per cent. of the entire area sown in the autumn, the area under *bajra* being 52·28 per cent. alone. The only other crop grown to any extent is maize, which occupies 2·39 per eent. The area twice croppe in the year is

4,559 acres or 21·33 per cent. of the net cultivation, a proportion below the average of the tahsil. Among the cultivators Brahmans and Kurmis predominate, and there is the usual complement of low castes, such as Ahirs and Chamars. In 1907-08 some 17 per cent. of the land was included in proprietary holdings, 41·27 per cent. was held by tenants at fixed rates, 20·86 per cent. by ex-proprietary and occupancy tenants, and 17·23 per cent. by tenants-at-will, only 158 acres being rent-free. No less than 62 per cent. of the land included in holdings in 1907-08 was sublet, this proportion far exceeding that in any other portion of the district. There were in the same year only 52 acres grain-rented, and the tenants' cash rates ranged from Rs. 9-13-5 an acre for *shikmi* tenants to Rs. 4-13-4 an acre for tenants at fixed rates. Occupancy tenants paid Rs. 5-0-10 per acre and tenants-at-will Rs. 9-1-8.

Qariat Sikhar was assessed by Mr. Duncan to a demand of Rs. 53,523. This sum has since been increased by the assessment of estates omitted at the permanent settlement and on other accounts, and in 1907-08 the revenue stood at Rs. 57,841-11-8. The incidence is the highest in the district and amounts to Rs. 3-0-2 per acre of cultivation. In addition to this, cesses to the extent of Rs. 4,396-13-5 are annually levied. There are 103 villages in the pargana, and these are divided into 199 *mahals*. Of the latter 28 are in the hands of single *zamindars*; 142 are held in joint *zamindari* and 29 in *pattidari* tenure, 16 of the latter being in the perfect and 13 in the imperfect form. The principal landholding castes are Brahmans, Kurmis and Bhuinhars. The largest individual proprietors are Pandits Raja Ram Ju, Kirpa Ram, and Daya Ram, Marathas, and Dip Narayan Chaudhari; the first own 16 villages, wholly or in part, their revenue demand being Rs. 1,339; while the last holds five villages, on which he pays Rs. 1,093.

The population of the pargana in 1881 numbered 24,203 persons, and this rose to 25,224 in 1891. At the last enumeration in 1901 there were 26,040 inhabitants, of whom 13,666 were females; while of the whole number 24,601 were Hindus, 1,293 Musalmans and 146 of other religions. There is no town in the pargana, but there are several populous villages. Such are Sikhar, the capital, Rudauli, Ramgarh, Mangarha, and Bagha. The only road in the tract is the unmetalled road which runs across

it from Chunar town to Kachhwa. Lists of the ferries, as also of the schools, post-offices, markets, and fairs of the pargana will be found in the appendix

A Kurmi, called Atbal Sah, has the credit of having first brought this pargana under cultivation. He is said to have commenced by cutting the jungle from the banks of the Ganges, to have then founded the town of Sikhar, and called the surrounding country after it. *Qariat* is merely the plural of *garia,* the Arabic word for a village or town, and the name Qariat Sikhar signifies the villages of, or subordinate to, Sikhar. In the *Ain-i-Akbari* the pargana is called Qariat-i-in ru-i-ab, that is, the villages on this side of the water, apparently in reference to the headquarters of the *sarkar* at Chunar. Atbal Sah is said to have been ejected by Mir Rustam Ali, who gave the pargana in *jagir* to Sher Sarfaraz Khan, with whom it remained till the time of Raja Balwant Singh. At the present time, for criminal and revenue purposes, the pargana is merged in the tahsil at Chunar; while in police matters the jurisdiction belongs to the station at Chunar.

RAJPUR, *Pargana* BARHAR, *Tahsil* ROBERTSGANJ.

Rajpur is a large and flourishing village lying in latitude 24°41′N. and longitude 82°58′E., at a distance of 44 miles south-east from Mirzapur and 8 miles west from Robertsganj. Rajpur is the capital town of pargana Barhar and situated in it is the residence of Rani Bed Saran Kunwar of Agori Barhar. The Rani's palace is a spacious two-storeyed house with large out-offices and stables and surrounded by extensive gardens. The house and grounds are however falling into disrepair owing to the constant absence of the owner. There are several tanks and bridges constructed for purposes of irrigation when the estate was under the court of wards; and there is a small bungalow designed for the accommodation of European visitors. The population of the place has somewhat decreased; for in 1881 it numbered 1,398 persons, whereas in 1901 there were only 1,178 inhabitants, of whom 155 were Muhammadans. The police station, pound and post-office as well as a rest-house lie at Shahganj two miles to the north.

ROBERTSGANJ, *Pargana* BARHAR, *Tahsil* ROBERTSGANJ.

Robertsganj is the headquarters of the tahsil which bears the same name, and lies in latitude 24°42′N. and longitude 83°4′E., at a distance of 50 miles south-east from Mirzapur. It takes its name from Mr. W. Roberts, deputy collector, and afterwards collector of the district, who was entrusted in 1846 with the completion of the work of settlement in the southern portion of the district. It was at Mr. Roberts's suggestion that the tahsil headquarters were removed from the unhealthy rice neighbourhood of Shahganj to the barren upland of Tandikaur; and under the auspices of the same officer, aided by Gaya Din, foreman, the Kewai *ghat* was constructed on easy gradients down the precipitous southern face of the Kaimurs, six miles to the south; while four miles to the north a substantial bridge was built over the Belan river. Robertsganj is increasing in importance. In 1881 it had a population of 1,161 persons. This number had risen to 1,559 in 1891, and at the last enumeration in 1901 there were 1,812 persons in the place, 273 of whom were Musalmans. Banias were the numerically strongest Hindu caste. Market is held twice a week, on Mondays and Fridays; and there are a police station, pound, middle vernacular school and post-office in the place.

ROBERTSGANJ *Tahsil.*

Robertsganj is the southern tahsil of the Mirzapur district and lies between the parallels of 23°52′ and 24°54′N. and 82°32′ and 83°33′E. It is a large subdivision, comprising four parganas within its limits, namely Barhar, Bijaigarh, Agori and Singrauli, the last including the Dudhi tappas, and has a maximum length of 64 miles and an average breadth of about 45 miles. On the north lie parganas Kera-Mangraur, Ahraura, Bhagwat, *taluqa* Saktesgarh, and tappa Chaurasi; on the west are tappa Upraudh and the Rewah State; Sarguja lies on the south and south-east; and on the east the boundary marches with that of the Palamau and Shahabad districts of Bengal. For purposes of description the tahsil may be divided into two portions, that in the north which lies on the Vindhyan plateau, comprising the whole of pargana Barhar and the bulk of Bijaigarh, and that which lies south of the Kaimur range of hills. The general characteristics of the northern tract are those of a

fertile valley, down the centre of which the Belan river finds its way. The land slopes upwards on either side to the Vindhyan escarpment on the one side and the foot of the Kaimur hills on the other. The meeting of the two slopes in the centre gives rise to a waterlogged tract ot country where the water level is so near the surface that irrigation with the *dhenkul* or lever becomes possible. From the hills above, the limits of this tract are clearly marked by the numerous groves of well-grown trees which are dotted over its surface, contrasting with the stunted scrub outside its limits. The soil is fertile and there are large areas of excellent loam and clay, interspersed with patches of a fine black soil which closely resembles the well-known black cotton soil of Bundelkhand and Central India. This fertile valley extends into the western portion of Bijaigarh, where the Belan and Ghaghar rivers take their rise; but along the foot of the Kaimurs and in the eastern part of Bijaigarh the soil becomes rocky and inferior. The basin of the Belan is dotted with numerous tanks, which retain the surface rainfall and are useful for the irrigation of rice; while their beds produce bumper crops of *rabi* when the water has been drawn off. The eastern portion of Bijaigarh is drained by the Karamnasa river. This flows in from Palamau near Banki, but is joined about eight miles further on by a considerable tributary, the Pachan, which rises in the pargana, the united streams passing out northwards to Kera-Mangraur. Both the Karamnasa and the Belan ultimately find their way to the Ganges; but the Ghaghar is peculiar in flowing southwards into the Son.

The Kaimur hills, which in the western portion of the district rise from 1,000 to 1,200 feet above the plain, form the southern boundary of the Vindhyan plateau. In the centre they sink to a series of inconsiderable hills, where the plateau terminates in an abrupt precipice overhanging the valley of the Son. Rising again as they continue eastward, they sweep to the south near Markundi and culminate in the three great crags of Mangeswar, Bijaigarh and Bagdharua. The range thence tends away to the east, with gradually diminishing height, to the Palamau boundary. The valley of the Son, which lies beyond the Kaimurs, is reached by several more or less practicable passes, the finest and best being the Kewai Ghat on the Ahraura-Chopan road. On the north bank of the river, in

the east, the hills run close to the stream; but on the opposite side of the Son, in the north of tappa Kon, near the junction of the Son and Rihand, and along the foot of the Kaimurs around the west of Agori there is a culturable valley of varying width where the soil is alluvial but light and sandy. Beyond the Son, one enters at once on a wilderness of parallel ridges of rocky hills, of no great height but exceedingly rugged and impracticable, and clothed with forest, usually of a stunted and ill-grown description. These ridges are intersected here and there by rivers and *nalas*, the chief of which are the Rihand, Kanhar, Bijul, Gotan, Deohar, Ajhir, Bichhi, Lahra, Lauwa and Thema; and they open out in places to enclose large pockets of culturable land. Three of the latter are extensive enough to be called basins and are situated round Kon, south and west of Dudhi, and in the valley of the Rihand between Kota and Singrauli. The soil in these basins consists of clay, usually of dark colour, loam, a mixture of clay and sand, *kewal*, a rich black loam generally found in lowlying places, *balua* or sand, and *patharka*, a coarse gravel along the hills and in other places.

The whole of parganas Agori and Singrauli, the Dudhi Government estate and sixty-four villages in Bijaigarh have never been cadastrally surveyed. According to the topographical survey the area of this portion of the tahsil is 1,259,177 acres. If to this be added the area of pargana Barhar and of the cadastrally surveyed portion of Bijaigarh, the tahsil covers 1,677,648 acres or 2,621·3 square miles. For the entire tahsil, owing to the want of detailed survey, only approximate areas can be given. Thus some 1,014,564 acres are barren land unfit for cultivation, the area covered by water or occupied by roads, sites, buildings and the like being included under this head. Of the remainder some 388,000 acres are land fit for but out of cultivation, including old and new fallow and waste land of doubtful cultivability; while some 275,000 acres are normally under the plough. To this total the surveyed portion contributes on an average some 160,543 acres, leaving 114,457 acres for the hilly portion lying south of the Kaimurs. The system of agriculture differs somewhat in these two tracts. In Barhar and Bijaigarh irrigation is extensively practised, the average area being 32,018 acres or 19·94 per cent. of the cultivation in the

surveyed portion. Only 2 per cent. of this irrigation is carried on from wells, and 88 per cent. is dependent on other sources, by which are meant streams and submersion tanks. Irrigation schemes which will benefit the Belan valley have been mentioned already in Chapter II, and the irrigated area will in the near future expand greatly. The *kharif* is the principal harvest and occupies on an average 107,056 acres, as against 95,674 sown in the *rabi*. The chief crops grown in the autumn are rice, which covers 50,000 acres or nearly half the entire harvest, the small millets, oilseeds, small pulses and maize; but very little *juar* or *bajra* are grown. In the spring wheat is sown in 26,534 acres, the proportion being higher than that of any other portion of the district, and there are some 8,368 acres of wheat intermixed with barley or with gram. After this comes *kirao*, 15,072 acres, linseed, 14,917, gram, 12,469, and barley and barley intermixed with gram. . . . A little opium is also grown. The area twice cropped within the year amounts to 42,190 acres or 26·28 per cent. of the net cultivation, a proportion which exceeds that of Mirzapur and is only surpassed by a narrow margin in Chunar tahsil.

South of the Kaimurs, agriculture is hampered by the lack of water (there being hardly enough for human consumption), the infertility of the soil, and the absence of the best agricultural castes. Cultivation is either permanent or temporary, the former being in fields which are generally near the homestead and well manured and the latter in outlying land which requires frequent rests to recoup its productive powers. About 54 per cent. of the cultivation is permanent and the rest is temporary or fluctuating. As might be expected from the lack of means of irrigation, the principal harvest is the *kharif*, and the chief crops grown are generally of inferior varieties. The most important ones are early rice, *kodon, sanwan, urd, mjhri* and *til*; while a little maize is sown in the highly manured land that surrounds the homesteads. In the spring wheat, barley, gram, mustard, peas and linseed [are all found. Very little land is twice cropped in the same year.

In Barhar the principal cultivating castes are Brahmans, Kurmis, Chamars and Koeris; while in Bijaigarh Ahirs and Kols replace Koeris: and in Sonpar there are very few Kurmis, the cultivating body being made up for the most part of Brahmans and

the aboriginal tribes. Rental statistics cannot be given for the unsurveyed portion of the tahsil. There the distinction in classes of soil does not affect the question of rent, which is levied in proportion to the number of ploughs maintained by the cultivator. The rates per plough vary from Rs. 5 per annum to Rs. 2-2-0. The cultivating holding is known as a *tora* or land broken up from the jungle. The area of a one-plough *tora* varies with the character of the land and the industry of the cultivator, but it may generally be taken to be about 20 *bighas*. In the surveyed portion of the district, in 1907-08, some 31 per cent. of the land was included in proprietary holdings, either as *sir* or *khudkasht*, 1·84 per cent. was held by tenants at fixed rates, 7·27 per cent. by occupancy tenants, and 49·68 per cent. by tenants-at-will; the remainder or 2·90 per cent. being rent-free. In the same year 11 per cent. of the area included in holdings was sublet. The grain-rented area in this portion of the district is large and amounted in 1907-08 to 35,612 acres, the rental of which was valued at Rs. 17,283. Tenants' cash rates ranged from Re. 1-11-11 per acre for *shikmi* tenants to Re. 0-5-1 for tenants at fixed rates. Occupancy tenants paid a rate of Re. 0-14-7 per acre and tenants-at-will Re. 1-9-3. There are altogether 1,479 villages in the tahsil, and these are divided into 1,433 *mahals*, 240 villages comprised in 151 *mahals* belonging to the Dudhi Government estate. Of the rest 568 *mahals* are in the hands of single *zamindars*; while 220 are held in joint *zamindari* and 494 in *pattidari* tenure, 118 being of the perfect and 376 of the imperfect form. In the Dudhi Government estate all but 17 *mahals*, comprising 70 villages in tappa Gonda-Bajia and one village, Hirachak, in Pulwa, are held in *sapurdari* tenure, the nature of which has already been explained in Chapter III. Of the various proprietary castes Benbansi and Chandel Rajputs hold the largest areas, the former being represented by the Raja of Singrauli and latter by the chiefs of Agori-Barhar and Bijaigarh. Large areas are in the hands of Kurmis and Brahmans in Barhar and Bijaigarh. Dudhi belongs to the Government.

The population of Robertsganj tahsil in 1881 numbered 226,318 souls, and this rose to 241,779 in 1891. At the last enumeration in 1901 there were 221,717 inhabitants, of whom 113,243 were females. Classified according to religion there were 108,840

Hindus, 4,048 Musalmans, 301 Sikhs, 40 Christians and 14 Aryas. The composition of the population of Robertsganj is more varied than that of any other tahsil in the United Provinces. The numerically strongest Hindu castes were Chamars, 24,822; Majhwars or Manjhis, 21,259; Ahirs 19,828; Brahmans, 18,002; Kharwars, 14,433; Kols 11,209; Kurmis, 9,459; Koeris 6,120; Cheros, 5,727; Telis, 5,391; and Rajputs, 5,063. The best represented of the Rajput clans were the Chandel, Gaharwar, Parihar, Bais and Chauhan. A large number of castes possessed over two thousand members in each case. These were Banias, Lohars, Kumhars, Kahars, Kalwars, Nais, Bayars, Dhobis, Dusadhs, Pankhas, Bhuiyas and Bhartiyas. There were several other castes, some of which are peculiar to the district, if not the tahsil, and were well represented, such as Gadariyas, Kewats, Lunias, Gonds, Dharkars, Baiswars, Dhangars, Agarias, Patharis, Ghasias and Parahiyas. Among the Musalmans, Julahas predominate, their number being 2,102; and after them come Sheikhs and Pathans. The tahsil is practically wholly agricultural in character, the only industries being a little iron smelting and sericulture. There is no manufacture of any importance, and many of the wilder tribes gain their living by wood-cutting and the collection of forest produce.

Since the provisions of Act XX of 1856 were withdrawn from Kon, the tahsil has only possessed one town, that of Ghorawal. But there are several places of importance. Such are Robertsganj, the headquarters of the tahsil; Dudhi, the capital village of the Government estate where the *sazawal* or manager resides; Gaharwargaon, the seat of the Raja of Singrauli; Shahganj, Pannuganj, Kon and Khairwa, which possess police stations; Chopan, an important halting place on the Sarguja road; Agori, the old Chandel stronghold which gives its name to a pargana; and Bijaigarh, where there is a famous fortress. The population is for the most part dispersed in small settlements, and there are only two places which contain over two thousand inhabitants: these are Jungel and Panari. Lists of the schools, post-offices, markets and fairs of the tahsil will be found in the appendix.

Compared with other portions of the district, the tahsil cannot be described as otherwise than poorly equipped with means of communication. The railway does not touch it, though the East

Indian railway once projected a loop line which might have traversed part of it, and there is no metalled road in it. The chief road is the second class road from Ahraura to Chopan which runs centrally through the northern portion of the tahsil past Robertsganj. From Chopan this route continues to the Sarguja frontier by two branches which diverge at Hathinala, but it is hardly more than a track. Two other roads, which are fair of their class, traverse pargana Barhar; one, a second class road, runs from Mariahan to Robertsganj, and the other, which is of the fifth class, starts at the former place and joins the Ahraura-Chopan road at Hindubari. The remaining roads, namely those from Robertsganj to Rohtas and Argarh, Rajgarh to Shahganj, Ghorawal to Kota and Gaharwargaon, Chopan to Singrauli, Singrauli to Sarguja, Singrauli to Dudhi, Dudhi to Kon and Argarh and to Nagar-Untari in Palamau are mere bridle tracks. Consequently almost the entire traffic of the pargana is conveyed on the backs of pack-animals. The Rihand and Kanhar rivers are nearly everywhere fordable except during the rains, a description which applies also to the Son after the month of December. At other seasons the passage is effected by means of ferries, a list of which will be found in the appendix.

The general history of the tahsil will be found in the separate pargana articles and need not be recapitulated. Its component parganas are not traceable in the *Ain-i-Akbari*, and it was apparently included, partly at least, in the little known and ill-defined *sarkar* of Bhatghora. Possibly a portion belonged to the *sarkar* of Rohtas. Even for many years after the British occupation a part of it was a debateable area between the North-Western Provinces and Bengal. The fiscal history is complicated and is different in the case of each pargana; reference for this must be made to the pargana articles.

At the present day the tahsil forms a separate subdivision for criminal purposes, the charge of which is generally entrusted to a full-powered officer on the district staff. The portion lying north of the Kaimurs is in revenue and civil matters subject to the provisions of the ordinary laws in force in the province of Agra; but that which lies to the south of this range is scheduled under Act XIV of 1874. Consequently it is exempted from the operations

of all laws except those which are extended to it by special notification. The revenue law in force is now the same as that in the province of Agra generally, the Agra Tenancy Act, and the United Provinces Land Revenue Act (Acts II and III of 1901) having been extended to the tract in 1904; but in civil matters the jurisdiction of the ordinary civil courts is superseded by that of the collector of the district and his assistants under a set of special rules, the court of the commissioner of the Benares division being the highest court of appeal for purposes of all acts, save those relating to succession and divorce, jurisdiction with regard to which is vested in the High Court of Allahabad. In police matters the jurisdiction is divided between the stations at Ghorawal, Shahganj, Robertsganj, Pannuganj, Chopan, Kon, Khairwa and Dudhi.

SAKTESGARH, *Taluqa* SAKTESGARH, *Tahsil* CHUNAR.

This village, which gives its name to the *taluqa* is distant 22 miles south from Mirzapur and 10 miles south from Chunar, and lies in latitude 24°59′N. and longitude 82°50′E. At the present day the place is a small and poor village, the population having continuously fallen from 561 in 1881 to 341 persons in 1901. Chamars are numerically the strongest Hindu caste. The place is however interesting for the fort erected by Sakat Singh to control the Kols in the reign of Akbar. This stronghold is situated at the mouth of the gorge by which the Jirgo river debouches from the hills. It consists of a small, plain rectangular building of stone with flanking towers at the corners, and encloses a two-storeyed building, the decorations of which, in glass mosaic, have obtained for it the name of *Shish Mahal*. Around the fort there is a considerable *enceinte*, enclosed on two sides by projecting hills, and towards the plain by a rampart and ditch, which must have formed a place of refuge in the neighbourhood in times of invasion. At the present time, however, there is nothing left in the whole area but a few small huts and the foundation of a small sanctuary. This sanctuary has a legend connected with it. It is related that the spot first chosen for the fort was in inconvenient proximity to a cave, wherein dwelt a hermit of great sanctity, named Siddh Nath. The holy man, perceiving the commencement of preparations,

threatened to bring a curse upon both builder and building unless he were left in peace and the present site, which he pointed out, chosen. Sakat Singh, in agreeing, begged the saint to take the fort under his protection, and to reside within its precincts. The hermit, while blessing the undertaking, declined to move, but permitted his brother Bhupat Nath to go down and live there, and it was for him that the sanctuary was built. There is another curious superstition connected with the place. The members of the Kantit Raja's family invariably slaughter a buffalo at the outer gate on the occasion of their first entry into the fort. This custom arose in consequence of an unsuccessful attempt to take the fort by an aboriginal chieftain named Mohan Badi. Mohan Badi was killed in the attempt, and the tradition is that his spirit, a very malevolent ghost, continued to haunt the place, till the hermit Siddh Nath exorcised the ghost by the sacrifice of a buffalo.

SAKTESGARH *Taluqa, Pargana* KANTIT, *Tahsil* CHUNAR.

Taluqa Saktesgarh is bounded on the north by pargana Haveli Chunar, on the east by pargana Bhagwat, on the south by pargana Barhar of the Robertsganj tahsil, and on the west by tappa Chaurasi of tahsil Mirzapur. It has a total area of 110,726 acres or 173 square miles. The northern half of the taluqa consists of wild and rugged uplands, in which there are a few poor villages with scattered patches of cultivation; but the central zone is an almost unbroken expanse of jungle, harbouring wild animals of various kinds and forming the principal game preserves of the Kantit estate. The southern portion lies upon the Vindhyan tableland. Here the country is more open and villages are more plentiful; but the soil is thin and ungenerous except where it is embanked. The northern and central portions contain many hill torrents, but the only stream of any size or importance is the Jirgo, which descends from the hills near the fort of Saktesgarh and passes by a long ravine out into the plains south of Chunar.

The barren and broken nature of the tract is fully illustrated by the area statistics. Thus 28,516 acres or 25·75 per cent. of the whole are recorded as waste incapable of cultivation, only 7·61 per cent. being other than unculturable waste. In addition to this 60,349 acres or 54·50 per cent. are returned as

culturable waste; but this term in so poor a tract of country has a very vague meaning, and it is safe to assume that practically all of the 29,391 acres recorded as waste fit for cultivation are unlikely ever to be brought under the plough. For the five years ending in 1907 the cultivated area averaged 21,861 acres or only 19·74 per cent. of the *taluqa*. The system of cultivation is generally as poor as it is scattered; but it is at its best in the south, where the area under the plough is increasing and embankments are being steadily built to hold up water for rice irrigation. Only 1,625 acres or 7·43 per cent. of the cultivated area are normally watered, and the bulk of this depends on sources other than wells and tanks. The *kharif* is the principal harvest and covers on an average 17,076 acres as against only 9,561 acres sown in the *rabi*. Over 52 per cent. of the area occupied by autumn crops is devoted to rice, the cultivation of which is, with the extension of embankments, on the increase, while of the other staples the only important ones are *til*, small pulses and *bajra*. A little maize is also grown in places. A large variety of crops is grown in the spring; and among them linseed takes somewhat unexpectedly the foremost place with 2,225 acres or 23·27 per cent. of the harvest. Next is wheat, which covers 17·73 per cent. when sown alone, and 10·81 per cent. when intermixed with barley or gram. The vetch *kirao* follows with 12·08 per cent. and after this come barley, intermixed with gram, 12·66 per cent., barley alone, 10·12 per cent. and gram alone, 9·59 per cent. The area twice cropped within the year amounts to 4,776 acres or 21·85 per cent. of the net cultivation.

The cultivating body is composed for the most part of the lower castes such as Koeris, Chamars and Kols; but there is a certain number of Brahmans and Kurmis also. Some 21 per cent. of the land was in 1907-08 included in proprietary holdings, whether as *sir* or *khudkasht*, 4 per cent. was held by tenants at fixed rates, 24 per cent. by occupancy tenants, and 49 per cent. by tenants-at-will, the small remainder being rent free. Only 16 per cent. of the land included in holdings is sublet, the proportion being about the average of the hilly parganas of the district. A large amount of land, 4,300 acres in 1907-08, is grain-rented; and the cash tenants' rates are very low. *Shikmi* tenants, who pay the highest

rate, pay but Rs. 2-5-3 an acre, and occupancy tenants pay Re. 1-7-7. Next come fixed rate tenants with Re. 1-9-1 and then tenants-at-will with Re. 1-10-2. The present demand on the *taluqa* is Rs. 13,998, and to this an addition of Rs. 1,809-1-0 may be made on account of cesses. There are 110 villages in the *taluqa*, and these are divided into 142 *mahals*. Of the latter 78 are in the hands of single *zamindars*, while 23 are held in joint *zamindari* and 41 in *pattidari* tenure, 17 of the latter being of the perfect and 24 of the imperfect form. Of the various proprietary castes, Gaharwar Rajputs, hold the bulk of the *taluqa*, the other principal landholders being Kurmis, Bhuinhars and Gosains, The Gaharwar Rajputs are represented by the Raja of Kantit, who owns a large portion of the *taluqa*.

The population of Saktesgarh in 1881 numbered 16,828 persons, and this rose to 17,250 in 1891. At the last census there were 15,801 inhabitants, of whom 7,903 were females; while 15,374 were Hindus, 411 Musalmans, and 16 of other religions. There is no place which can be dignified with the name of a town or even large village in the whole tract; and the people are not entirely dependent on their holdings for subsistence. Various natural products are collected in the jungle and there is much available grazing. The communications are very poor, the only real road being that from Mariahan to Hindubari which cuts across the southern portion of the *taluqa*. There is also a track which runs northwards across the whole length of the *taluqa* from Rajgarh to Chunar railway station. Hence all traffic is carried on by means of pack animals.

Taluqa Saktesgarh takes its name from the village of that name, which is now hardly more than a collection of a few houses round the interesting old fort erected by Sakat Singh in the reign of Akbar. From that chieftain both *taluqa* and village derive their names. For previous to him the tract was known as Kolana after the Kols who inhabited it, and these people appear to have held their mountain home long after the Hindu conquest of the plains below. A small, and perhaps a nominal, tax was imposed on them by Akbar; but it does not seem to have been realised, for its non-payment was the pretext under which, apparently with the imperial sanction, Sakat Singh, one of the Kantit Rajas, annexed

the Kol country to his own estate and erected, to secure his possession, the fortress which has since been known by his name.

The fiscal history of the pargana presents some peculiarities. The first settlement, which was made in 1790 A.D., amounted to Rs. 15,580-8-0 and was found to be higher than the tract, in its then wild and uncultivated condition, could bear. Accordingly a reduced demand was imposed in 1793 A.D., and it was this which was declared permanent in 1795. Some confusion resulted from the imposition of two different revenues, and it appears that several of the intermediate settlements of single villages were made on the first or higher rate of demand. In 1790 not a single *zamindar* could be found in the *taluqa* to engage for the revenue, while in 1793 only two villages could be settled in *zamindari* tenure. The rest had to be farmed and even farmers were obtained with difficulty. Subsequently, however, as the meaning and value of proprietary right came to be understood, claimants began to come forward and all but eight of the farmed villages were from time to time settled with *zamindars.* The remainder were so settled by Mr. Raikes at the revision of 1842. The total demand prior to the revision was Rs. 14,124, while that assessed by Mr. Raikes was Rs. 14,118. This amount has since been reduced by the abolition of the anomalous *mahals* Tengari, Bungahi and Gaocharai. These were regarded originally as genuine villages, whereas they were, in fact, farms of the right to collect certain dues, the first two for the right to cut fire-wood with axe *(tenga)* and maul *(bunga)*; and the other for the grazing of cattle.

At the present time the *taluqa,* for criminal and revenue purposes, forms a portion of the Chunar tahsil; while in police matters the jurisdiction is divided between the stations at Chunar and Ghorawal.

SHAHGANJ, *Pargana* BARHAR, *Tahsil* ROBERTSGANJ.

Shahganj lies at a distance of 46 miles south-east from Mirzapur and 16 miles west from Robertsganj in latitude 24°43′N. and longitude 82°58′E. It is situated on the unmetalled road which runs from Ghorawal to Robertsganj. Shahganj was formerly a place of some importance, for it was the headquarters of the southern tahsil of Mirzapur. But it was abandoned on account

of the unhealthiness of its situation in favour of Robertsganj in 1846. The population has decreased from 684 persons in 1881 to 593 in 1901: of the latter number 149 were Musalmans. The place contains a police station, post-office, inspection bungalow, and a well-attended upper primary school. Two miles to the south lies the village of Rajpur, with which it is connected by a raised and bridged road. Here the Rani of Agori-Barhar has a residence.

SIKANDARPUR, *Pargana* KERA-MANGRAUR, *Tahsil* CHAKIA.

Next to Chakia, Sikandarpur is the largest village in the pargana of Kera-Mangraur. It lies on the banks of the Chandraprabha river, near the junction of the two roads which branch off to Ramnagar and Chandauli in the Benares district from the direction of Chakia, and is situated in latitude 25°5′N. and longitude 83°13′E. The population has somewhat decreased of late years, for in 1881 it numbered 2,134 persons, whereas in 1901 there were only 1,917 inhabitants, of whom 627 were Musalmans. Sikandarpur was selected as the headquaters of the pargana by Raja Balwant Singh, and the Raja's offices continued there till their removal to Chakia by Raja Udit Narayan. There is a fairly well-supplied bazar and some sugar refineries; and there is also a primary school in the village.

SINGRAULI *Pargana, Tahsil* ROBERTSGANJ.

Singrauli proper is the south-western pargana of the tahsil and district, being bounded on the north by pargana Agori; on the east by pargana Dudhi; and on the south and west by the independent states of Sarguja and Rewah. The pargana is nearly triangular in shape: it has never been cadastrally surveyed and the area by topographical survey is returned at 243,285 acres or 380·1 square miles. Of this no less than 204,644 acres are barren land unfit for cultivation, being for the most part hill and jungle; the cultivated area averages about 25,500 acres; and the remainder or 13,141 acres is culturable waste.

For a description of its physical features, Singrauli may be conveniently divided into three parts, the northern or hilly portion, the basin of Singrauli, and the coal fields which are situated on the

western boundary. The northern portion consists of parallel ranges of hills of the clay slate formation, having a direction east by north to west by south. The hills are serrated and the country uneven and much cut up by ravines; while the whole is generally sterile and scantily clothed with trees. The trees are all of stunted growth, owing to the shallowness and poverty of the soil, and a few level patches, widely scattered, constitute the cultivation in this part of the country. "If," writes Mr. Roberts, "from the Aundi hills as an apex, lines be drawn to the Rihand, one through Balwadah and the other to Panari on the eastern bank of that river, the area will represent nearly the space occupied by trappean rocks; quartz, felspar, serpentine and syenite are found in this space, especially in the neighbourhood of Aundi and Balwadah." The basin of Singrauli is alluvial soil, some of it being the rich black loam known as *kewal*. The higher portions, where the surface soil has been washed off, show masses of different rocks embedded in sandstones or in hardened clay. They seem to have been drifted from the south-west; the size varies from a square foot to small pebbles, and most of them are rounded. At Aundi, running to the south and laterally west, commence the sandstone hills that form the upper layer of the coal field. The western limit of the coal tract is the boundary of Singrauli and the eastern is somewhere just west of the Rihand river. The latter is the principal river in the tract, and it has three fairly large tributaries, the Deohar on the left and the Ajhir and Bichhi on the right bank. The Rihand passes into Singrauli from the Rewah State and flows diagonally across it past Gaharwargaon for about 15 miles till at Badura it becomes the boundary between Singrauli and Dudhi. A short distance further on it descends in a miniature fall, locally known as the Ghagh, over a step of rock some six feet in height. After washing the border for less than ten miles up to Murdhauwa in pargana Dudhi, it flows onward through Singrauli into Agori. It is a perennial stream, and down it are drifted, in the rains, large rafts of bamboos and rafters, which are 60, 80 or 100 feet long and are guided by three men. The river is fordable in most places. The system of agriculture does not differ from that of Agori and Dudhi; the *kharif* is the principal harvest and the chief crop is rice; while in the spring wheat, gram, barley and other

crops are grown. Water is very scarce and the irrigated area is very small. Wells are chiefly used for human consumption; but there are some tanks and embankments, the best known being that at Gaharwargaon.

The population of Singrauli in 1881 numbered 29,443 persons, and this rose to 33,704 in 1891. At the last enumeration in 1901 there were but 26,705 inhabitants, 13,284 of whom were females. Classified according to religion there were 25,754 Hindus, 930 Musalmans, and 21 persons of other religions. The chief castes inhabiting the pargana are Kharwars, Manjhis, Pankas, Brahmans, Ahirs, Telis, Chamars and Bayars. The pargana contains 115 villages divided into 121 *mahals*, of which 93 are held in single *zamindari* and 28 in perfect *pattidari*. The Raja of Singrauli owns the whole tract. There is no town in the pargana, and the largest village is Koldumari, which in 1901 had a population of 1,794 souls. Other villages with over one thousand inhabitants are Gaharwargaon, Mahri Kalan and Pandari. The only roads in the pargana are sixth-class roads, the most important being that which runs north to Khajura and thence by two alternative routes over the Son *via* Kota-Newari and Chopan. Such traffic as there is consists of jungle produce for the most part and is conveyed on pack-animals. Lists of the markets, fairs, post-offices, and schools of the pargana will be found in the appendix.

The ancient pargana of Singrauli consisted of taluqa British Singrauli, or the country west of the Rihand; Bichhi or Singrauli proper; and Shahpur or Sahipur Singrauli now in Rewah. It formed part of the extensive domains of the Baland Rajas. An account of their expulsion, their temporary restoration, and their final subjugation by the Chandel Raja, Oran Deo, has already been given in Chapter V. Oran Deo divided his territory between his two sons, the elder taking Bardi and Shahpur Singrauli, and the younger Agori-Barhar and the rest of Singrauli. But the present local chief is in no way related to the Chandel lord-paramount, and the origin of his domain is somewhat obscure. The founder of the family is said to have been a Benbansi adventurer of Theonthir in Rewah territory, who came into Shahpur Singrauli and married the daughter of the petty chieftain of Raipur in that

pargana. Being of an enterprising disposition and having the aid of the Raipur chief, the adventurer or his descendants acquired temporary possession of the whole tract, but the third in descent was expelled by the Rajas of Agori-Barhar and Bardi about 1500 A.D. Subsequently two brothers, the twelfth in descent from the original founder, managed to recover possession of the tract and the whole ultimately passed into the hands of the elder, Dariao Sah. The latter was succeeded by his son, Fakir Sah, who was the first to assume the title of Raja, and his son, Rudr Sah, was in possession of Singrauli when the East India Company acquired the province of Benares in 1781. It was during the time of Fakir Sah and Rudr Sah that the pargana was reclaimed from waste, the settlers being chiefly Brahmans. It is not satisfactorily ascertainable whether Fakir Sah rendered any tribute to the Rajas of Agori-Barhar; but after the Chandels had been expelled by Balwant Singh in 1745 A.D., Fakir Sah certainly paid tribute to Balwant Singh and his successors, the amount being Rs. 701. Now when Adil Sah was restored to Agori-Barhar in 1781, he treated Rudr Sah as a vassal, and attempted to exact benevolences and fines; but the Singrauli Raja insisted that any payments he made should be credited to revenue. The dispute ran so high that a detachment of native infantry was despatched from Benares to coerce Rudr Sah. But instructions were given to the commander to try and settle matters peaceably before resorting to arms; and in the course of a conference that was held it was found that Adil Sah's conduct had been far from satisfactory. Mr. Duncan accordingly, in 1792, made the Singrauli Raja independent of his lord-paramount. In 1803 however, an additional *jagir*, under circumstances already narrated in connection with pargana Agori, was granted to the Raja of Agori-Barhar by Mr. Barton, and in this *jagir* Singrauli was included. In 1809 Ran Bahadar Sah, then Raja of Agori, obtained in the civil courts an *ex parte* decree for possession of Singrauli but he did not attempt to execute it till 1811, when an *amin* sent to carry out the decision of the court was resisted by the Singrauli Raja, who had been in entire ignorance of the proceedings. Major Roughsedge of the Ramgarh military battalion happened to be in the neighbourhood at this juncture and he brought the facts of the case to the notice of the Government, who tried to effect an amicable

arrangement. Long and fruitless negotiations ensued, but without result. The Singrauli Raja was advised to appeal against the *ex parte* decree, which he did; and ultimately in 1834 the judgment of the *zila* court of 1809 was reversed, the Singrauli Raja's *zamindari* title to the pargana being upheld. As, however, Singrauli had been included in the Agori-Barhar Raja's *jagir* in 1803, the latter's title to receive the revenue assessed on the pargana or Rs. 701 had never been disputed; and this arrangement continues to the present day, the British Government receiving nothing. While the dispute between the two rajas had been proceeding, the relations of the Singrauli Raja with his tenants and under-proprietors had been truly patriarchal. But no sooner had his title to the *zamindari* been upheld, than he proceeded to reduce the proprietors to the position of tenants-at-will. This process lasted from 1835 and 1839, and the violence displayed resulted in the establishment of a police outpost at Singrauli. During 1842 and the following years the pargana was surveyed by Captain Wroughton; and when the records-of-rights were being prepared, the village owners attempted to obtain recognition of their claims. The settlement deputy collector, Rai Manik Chand, investigated these claims; but his judgments were reversed by superior authority on the ground that they were *ultra vires*, in 1844; and in 1847 Mr. W. Roberts was deputed to settle matters. On the issue of Mr. Roberts' proclamations notifying that all claims to rights in land would be investigated and decided, a large number of persons came forward and adduced, in many cases, strong proofs of the permanency of their tenures. The Raja's defence was weak; and he offered no evidence to rebut the testimony of the village claimants. Mr. Roberts accordingly classed the villages as *zamindari*, *mukarrari*, hereditary occupancy, revenue-free, and *khalsa* according to the tenures prevailing in them. In the first class were included 18 *mahals*, all the estates having been held by ancestors of the incumbents in 1847, at least twelve years before the general settlement of 1789-90. The second class contained 31 *mahals* the proprietary rights in which had been created after the general settlement; and the third class contained 17 *mahals*, the occupants of which had been for several generations paying either fixed rents or rents regulated according to fixed principles. The revenue-free estates were

five in number and by *khalsa* estates, 20 in all, were understood those which were the sole property of the Raja.

For purposes of revenue and criminal administration, pargana Singrauli is included in the tahsil of Robertsganj, and so forms part of the "scheduled" portion of Mirzapur. In the early days of the British administration a native resident called a *sazawal* was appointed to see to the "full and due preservation of public tranquillity," and to maintain the authority of the Government. But for some reason or other, the appointment fell into abeyance before 1800, possibly because the relations between the Raja and his tenants were so patriarchal. After this Singrauli does not appear to have been even visited by a policeman for nearly 40 years, when owing to the disputes between the Raja and the peasantry, two *barkandazes* were stationed in the pargana to represent the authority of the British Government. At the present time the pargana falls within the jurisdiction of the police station at Khairwa. Besides the ordinary courts, Raja Rudra Pratap Singh has second class magisterial powers within the limits of the pargana.

SUKRIT, *Pargana* AHRAURA, *Tahsil* CHUNAR.

This small village lies in latitude 24° 54′ N. and longitude 83°4′E., 40 miles south-east from Mirzapur and 20 miles south-east south from Chunar. It had in 1901 a population of 588 persons, 29 being Musalmans, and is only interesting because it gives its name to the pass by which Ahraura-Chopan road descends from the Vindhyan tableland to the lowland of the Gangetic valley. The road was aligned up this pass by Mr. Bligh, the district engineer, in 1885. At the foot of the pass stands the fortress of Latifpur, now totally in ruins. The fort is of rectangular shape and encloses a considerable area, two sides being protected by the precipitous banks of a deep stream and the other two by a solid stone rampart and ditch. The present buildings, which are now but a shapeless though picturesque mass of overgrown ruins, are said by Major Stewart * to have displayed in his time signs of considerable architectural taste. The fort of Latifpur was constructed by one Malik Farrukh, *zamindar* of Ahraura, as his principal stronghold and treasury. In 1752 it was held by his son,

* *Rambles in the Mirzapur District*, p. 17.

Malik Ahsan; but on Balwant Singh advancing to attack it, Malik Ahsan evacuated the fort and fled. In 1781 the fort fell into the hands of a British force commanded by Major Crabb, who was operating against Chet Singh. In some passes leading towards the fort, there are small stone *garhis* or redoubts, built for the protection of outposts. In one of these, about two miles east of Latifpur, thirteen French *chausseurs* in the British service, who fell into the hands of Chet Singh during the early part of his insurrection against Warren Hastings, were by the Raja's orders barbarously murdered. A man named Mordelait, who was the fourteenth of the party, escaped by feigning death after he had been run through with a spear. He managed to crawl away during the night, and was secretly protected by some villagers till the fort was occupied by Major Crabb.

SURIAWAN, *Pargana* BHADOHI, *Tahsil* CHAKIA.

The name Suriawan is given to two villages separated by about half a mile, in latitude 25°28′N. and longitude 82°26′E. They are distant 24 miles north-north-west from Mirzapur and 10 miles north-north-west from Korh, being connected with the latter place by an unmetalled road. There is also a railway station of the same name on the Partabgarh-Benares section of the Oudh and Rohilkhand railway. The two portions of the village are known as Suriawan Patti Achal Singh and Suriawan Patti Zorawar Singh, the former having in 1901 a population of 900 and the latter of 1,075 persons. The combined population thus amounts to 1,975 persons, and of these 339 were Musalmans. In addition to this there were 49 persons in 1901 residing in and around the railway station. In Patti Achal Singh the predominant caste was that of Sheikhs, and in Patti Zorawar Singh that of Brahmans. Suriawan is interesting as the ancient capital of the Monas rulers of the pargana: the ruins of their stronghold can still be traced, and there are two fine tanks in the vicinity. The village contains now a police station, post-office and school.

UJH, *Pargana* BHADOHI, *Tahsil* KORH.

This village lies on the grand trunk road in latitude 25°19′N, and longitude 82°19′E. It is distant 20 miles north-west from

Mirzapur and 8 miles west from Korh. It is also known as Ujh Mungarha and in 1901 had a population of 557 persons, of whom only one was a Musalman. It is a place of no importance except as the site of a pound and a post-office.

UPRAUDH *Tappa*, *Pargana* KANTIT, *Tahsil* MIRZAPUR.

Tappa Upraudh is the south-western tappa of the Mirzapur tahsil, and is bounded on the north by tappas Chhiyanve and Chaurasi; on the east by the last named tappa and pargana Barhar; on the south by the Rewah state; and on the west by the district of Allahabad. It lies entirely on the Vindhyan plateau, the south-western limit along the Rewah frontier being the Kaimur hills. The tappa is, generally speaking, very hilly and stony. In the northern portion there is little but scrub jungle and the country is an undulating plain, formed of rock and covered with a stiff red ferruginous clay and, in parts, with gravel closely resembling laterite. To the south, along the great Deccan road, the country descends with a gentle south-westerly slope towards the river Belan. The depth of the soil now increases and there is a corresponding increase in fertility, marked by a change in crops from *kodon* and similar inferior millets to cereals and pulses, including even, in some limited areas, rice. Beyond the Belan there is another rise and the soil again falls off in productivity; this is succeeded by a long slope of fairly generous country extending to the base of the Kaimurs. East of this, in the basin of the Adhwa and Belan rivers, there is a narrow strip of remarkably fertile land which runs past Halia to Ghorawal in Barhar and the limits of which are clearly marked by numerous groves of trees. The extreme north of the tappa is drained by two small streams, the Baginar and Karnavati, which unite before they leave the upland and pass into the Gangetic valley over the Thanda falls not far from Bhagwan Talao. The rest of the tappa is drained by the Belan river. This river flows along the south-eastern border for eight or ten miles, forming the boundary with pargana Barhar and then turns abruptly westward across the tappa, which it leaves near Baraundha. It is joined by numerous tributaries on either hand, the most important of which is the Adhwa, whose waters are supplemented by some minor streams such as the Ghaghar, Khajwa

and Majardha, while the Suswar *nala* flows directly into the Belan. On the north bank the chief streams are the Sikrar, Ghori and Bakhar *nalas*. In the extreme south-west several hill torrents unite to form the Seoti river, which leaves Upraudh near Drummondganj and ultimately joins the Belan in the Allahabad district. Tappa Upraudh has a total area of 393,720 acres or 615 square miles, which is larger than the combined areas of parganas Bhadohi and Kera-Mangraur or the tahsil of Chunar. Of this area, 80,038 acres or 20·32 per cent. are recorded barren waste, 61,414 acres being land unfit for cultivation and the remainder covered with roads, sites, buildings and the like. The area of culturable land, fit for but out of cultivation, is returned at 209,366 acres or 53·18 per cent. of the tappa, only 41,431 acres of which are culturable waste. For the five years ending in 1907 the cultivated area averaged 104,316 acres or 26·49 per cent. of the whole, the smallest figure in the district with the exception of pargana Ahraura. Irrigation is but little practiced in Upraudh, the quinquennial average being but 2,653 acres or 2·54 per cent. of the cultivation. This proportion is the lowest in the district, with the exception of tappa Kon and pargana Qariat Sikhar; but whereas there are at present no facilities for irrigation in Upraudh, Kon and Qariat Sikhar have advantages of situation which render them practically independent of artificial irrigation. Some improvement, however, will be effected in this respect when the irrigation projects described in Chapter II are completed. As might be expected in a tract with so much poor soil and so entirely dependent on the periodical monsoon rains, the principal harvest is the *kharif*. This occupies, on the average of the five years from 1903 to 1907, 79,314 acres as against 43,026 acres sown in the *rabi*. The chief crop grown is the early millet known as *sanwan*, which covers some 38 per cent. of the area sown in the harvest, and next comes rice, chiefly early rice, which occupies 31·24 per cent. *Til* or oil-seeds occupy over 9 per cent., the highest proportion in any pargana of the district, while *juar*, *bajra*, maize and the small pulses are sown in 17 per cent. of the area, in nearly equal proportions. In the spring, the chief crop is gram, which is better suited than barley or wheat to the dryness of the tract This is grown in 30·98 per cent. of the *rabi* harvest, while barley occupies

15·54 per cent. and barley intermixed with gram an additional 9·85 per cent. Next comes linseed, 22·22 per cent.; while wheat covers 10·64 per cent. and wheat intermixed with either barley or gram, 6·94 per cent. The area twice cropped within the year averages 18,034 acres or 17·29 per cent. of the net cultivation. This proportion is a creditable one and exceeds the average of the tahsil.

Among the cultivating castes, Kols predominate; but there is a fair proportion of Brahmans, Rajputs, Kurmis, Koeris and Chamars. In 1907-08 some 19 per cent. of the land was included in proprietary holdings whether as *sir* or *khudkasht*, 9·04 per-cent. was held by tenants at fixed rates, 19·08 per cent. by ex-proprietary and occupancy tenants and 51·70 by tenants-at-will, the small remainder being rent-free. Only 15 per cent. of the land included in holdings was sublet, this proportion being the smallest in the district except parganas Barhar and Bijaigarh. Only 4,584 acres were grain-rented, and the tenants' cash rates varied from the low rate of Rs. 2-2-3 per acre for *shikmi* tenants to Re. 0-1-5 for tenants at fixed rates. Occupancy tenants paid Re. 1-0-2 per acre, and tenants-at-will Re. 0-15-10. From this the general inferiority of the soil may be inferred. The tappa contains 499 villages, and these are divided into 593 *mahals*. Of the latter 251 are in the hands of single *zamindars* while 169 are held in joint *zamindari* and 173 in *pattidari* tenure, all but ten of the latter being of the imperfect form. Of the various proprietary castes, Gaharwar Rajputs hold the foremost place with 154,096 acres. Next to them come Gosains, Kurmis and Bhuinhars. The Gaharwars are represented by the Raja of Kantit, who is the largest landholder in the tappa. Other proprietors are Mahant Anand Gir, who owns 22 villages wholly or in part, assessed to a demand of Rs. 2,170; Babu Beni Madho Das, nine villages, and Saiyid Abdul Ghafur, six villages. The population of the pargana in 1881 numbered 89,227 persons, and this fell to 65,500 in 1891. At the last enumeration in 1901 there were 63,986 inhabitants, of whom 31,765 were females; while there were 61,269 Hindus, 2,715 Musalmans, and two persons of other religions.

There are no towns in the tappa, but there are several large and important villages. The chief of these are Lalganj, Drum-

mondganj and Halia, which are all important market towns and with the exception of Drummondganj possess police stations. The tappa is on the whole fairly well supplied with means of communication except in its south-eastern part. The great Deccan road runs through it, ascending the *ghats* near Bhagwan Talao and passing along the Allahabad frontier till it leaves the district for Rewah beyond Drummondganj. Halia is a centre from which unmetalled roads radiate to Drummondganj, Lalganj, Patar and Bardi. The last named place is in Rewah ; the road passes up the Dibhor *ghat* and is an old trade route not now of much importance. At Patar the road from Halia joins the long road which runs from Lalganj across the plateau to Ghorawal and Robertsganj. The great Deccan road is bridged throughout except at the crossing of the Belan river, where a masonry causeway is provided, but this is impassable during heavy floods. There is a similar causeway over the same river on the road from Lalganj to Halia. Lists of the schools, post-offices, markets and fairs of the pargana will be found in the appendix.

Tappa Upraudh is not recorded as a separate pargana in the *Ain-i-Akbari*, being then a subdivision of the old pargana of Kantit. The Government demand at the permanent settlement is entered in the Duncan Records as Rs. 45,278-10-0. At the revision of 1842, however, it was found that several remarkable errors had been made in 1790 A.D., some "*amani mahals* being unnoticed and others entered twice over both as *amani* and *zamindari*." Adjustments due to the correction of these errors brought the demand up to Rs. 49,687 ; and further rectifications in 1842 increased it to Rs. 51,860. At the present time owing to resumptions and other causes the demand is Rs. 55,386-7-1, and to this an addition of Rs. 7,916-1-6 may be made on account of cesses. The incidence of the revenue is only Re. 0-11-11 per acre of cultivation, the lowest in the district except in the Robertsganj tahsil. The tappa does not form a separate subdivision for revenue or criminal purposes, being merged in the tahsil of Mirzapur. In police matters the jurisdiction is divided between the stations of Lalganj and Halia.

Gazetteer of Mirzapur.

APPENDIX.

GAZETTEER

OF

MIRZAPUR.

CONTENTS.

TABLE I.—*Population by Tahsils*, 1901.

Tahsil.	Total.			Hindus.			Musalmans.			Others.		
	Persons.	Males.	Females.	Persons.	Males.	Females.	Persons.	Males.	Females.	Persons.	Males.	Females.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Mirzapur ...	332,340	162,859	169,481	307,554	50,310	157,244	23,994	12,185	11,809	792	364	428
Chunar ...	176,532	86,013	90,519	162,889	79,394	83,495	13,188	6,418	6,770	455	201	254
Robertsganj ..	221,717	108,474	113,243	213,082	104,242	108,840	7,914	3,866	4,048	721	366	355
Korh	285,240	139,139	146,101	262,792	128,252	134,540	22,411	10,864	11,547	37	23	14
Chakia ...	66,601	33,590	33,011	61,602	31,076	30,526	4,995	2,511	2,484	4	3	1
Total ...	1,082,430	530,075	552,355	1,007,919	493,274	514,645	72,502	35,844	36,658	2,009	957	1,052

TABLE II.—*Population by Thanas*, 1901.

Name of Thana.	Total population.			Hindus.			Musalmans.			Others.		
	Total	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total	Males.	Females.
Mariahan	18,517	9,284	9,233	18,058	9,043	9,015	436	228	208	23	13	10
Pandri	25,856	12,976	12,880	25,136	12,591	12,545	720	385	335	...	...	...
Kotwali	122,343	59,609	62,734	106,672	51,741	54,931	15,005	7,576	7,429	666	292	374
Bindhachal	26,132	12,150	13,982	24,814	11,488	13,326	1,318	662	656	...	...	...
Gaipura	35,220	16.845	18,375	32,517	15,532	16,995	2,688	1,309	1,379	5	4	1
Halia	19.199	9,616	9,583	18,269	9,102	9,167	930	514	416	..	..	...
Drummondganj	14,160	7,137	7,023	13,412	6,745	6,667	748	392	356	..	...	...
Lalganj	30,600	15,452	15,148	29,572	14,889	14,683	1,026	561	465	2	2	...
Gopiganj	91,247	44.236	47,011	85,067	41,219	43,848	6,158	3,004	3,154	22	13	9
Kachhwa	43,775	21,496	22,279	42,291	20,740	21,557	1,373	692	681	111	64	47
Chunar	66,524	31,95[illegible]	34.565	60,516	29,105	31,411	5,602	2,677	2,955	406	177	229
Mirzapur Khurd	32,202	15,807	16,395	29,845	14,645	15,200	2,338	1,155	1,183	19	7	12
Ahraura	58,911	29,138	29,773	54,274	26,866	27,408	4,625	2,267	2,358	12	5	7
Pannuganj	36,790	17,692	19,098	35,446	17.037	18,409	1,344	655	689	...	...	...
Ghorawal	26,840	13 252	13,588	25,978	12.829	13,149	862	423	439	...	...	...
Shahganj	23,318	11,244	12,074	22,232	10,735	11,497	1,070	502	568	16	7	9
Robertsganj	33,665	15,897	17 768	32,005	15,155	16,850	1,657	739	918	3	3	...
Chopan	25,902	13,087	12,815	25,436	12,829	12.607	459	255	204	7	3	4
Kon	12,275	5,977	6,298	11,455	5,583	5,896	695	332	363	125	56	69
Knairwa	31,329	15,699	15,630	30,244	15,132	15,112	1,064	556	508	21	11	10
Dhdhi	39,852	19,628	20,224	38,348	18,838	19,510	955	504	451	549	286	263
Bhadohi	65,246	32,010	33,236	58,225	28,671	29,554	7,011	3,334	3,677	10	5	5
Aurai	52,699	25,882	26,817	46,635	22,912	23,723	6,059	2,967	3,092	5	3	2
Suriawan	51.319	25,490	25,829	48,772	24,221	24,551	2,544	1,266	1,278	3	3	...
Ujh	35,370	16,780	18,590	34,460	16,351	18,109	910	429	481	...	...	...
Chakia	63,139	31,732	31,407	58,230	29,269	28,961	4,905	2,460	2,445	4	3	1
Total ...	1,082,430	530,075	552,355	1,007,919	493,274	514,645	72,502	35,844	36,658	2,069	957	1,052

TABLE III.—*Vital statistics.*

Year.	Births.				Deaths.			
	Total.	Males.	Females.	Rate per 1,000.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Rate per 1,000
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1891	40,533	20,970	19,563	34·90	39,972	21,247	18,725	34·41
1892 ...	42,790	22,105	20,685	36 84	35,495	18,910	16,585	30·56
1893	42,852	22,049	20,803	36 89	30,401	16,373	14,028	26·17
1894 ...	42,665	21,910	20,755	36·73	55,207	28,816	26,391	47·53
1895 ...	33,483	17,389	16,094	28·83	30,922	16,806	14,116	26·62
1896 ..	40,534	21,105	19,429	34·90	37,061	20,262	16,799	31·91
1897 ...	28,707	14,915	13,792	24 71	60,939	33,279	27,660	52·46
1898 ...	30,345	15,713	14 632	26 12	30,019	15,714	14,305	25·84
1899 ...	49,256	25,397	23,859	42 41	33,024	17,433	15,591	28·43
1900 ...	41,177	21,155	20,022	35·45*	36,315	19 723	16,592	31·26*
1901 ...	41,724	21 702	20,022	38·55	28,107	14,963	13,144	25·97
1902 ...	44,911	23.134	21,777	41·49	31,505	16,052	15,453	29·10
1903 ...	44,265	22,894	21 371	40·89	33,493	17,573	15,920	30·94
1904 ...	49,418	25,498	23,920	45·65	31,248	15,746	15,502	28·87
1905 ...	46,970	24,461	22,509	43·39	46,741	23,201	23,640	43·18
1906 ...	38,724	19,9·3	18,731	35·77	40,692	21,383	19,309	37·59
1907 ...	43,281	22,408	20 873	39 98	36,039	18,096	17,943	33·29
1908 ...	42,043	21,921	20,122	3·84	47,305	24,574	22,731	43·70
1909 ...								
1910 ...								
1911 ...								
1912 ...								
1913 ...								
1914 ...								

* The rates from 1891 to 1900 are calculated from the returns of the 1891 census.

TABLE IV.—*Deaths according to cause.*

Year.	Total deaths from—					
	All causes.	Plague.	Cholera.	Small-pox.	Fever.	Bowel complaints.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1891	39,972	...	5,011	417	27,749	577
1892	35,495	...	1,796	268	26,776	416
1893	30,401	...	168	177	23,362	287
1894	55,207	...	3,372	117	41,544	868
1895	30,922	...	1,536	66	23,321	391
1896	37,061	...	1,434	1,812	26,202	486
1897	60,939	...	1,545	5,111	43,582	2,099
1898	30,019	...	38	64	24,022	153
1899	33,024	...	104	53	24,288	152
1900	36,315	2	2,620	75	24,834	248
1901	28,107	21	102	29	19,469	553
1902	31,505	1,864	691	63	20,144	263
1903	33,493	231	767	108	23,154	162
1904	31,248	3,582	128	111	18,901	58
1905	46,741	5,936	590	154	30,025	139
1906	49,692	778	4,411	382	26 504	197
1907	36,039	5,032	340	551	21,987	150
1908	47,305	81	5,740	1,496	30,000	134
1909						
1910						
1911						
1912						
1913						
1914						

TABLE V.—*Statistics of cultivation and irrigation, 1315 fasli.*

Pargana and tahsil.	Total area.	Waste.	Culturable.	Cultivated.							
				Irrigated					Dry.	Total	Double-cropped.
				Total.	Canal.	Wells.	Tanks.	Other sources.			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Upraudh ...	393,720	79.876	228,950	5,509	...	3,859	...	1.650	79.385	84,894	4.062
Chaurasi ...	214,168	41,476	103,965	12,032	...	11,043	...	989	56.695	68,727	4,807
Chhiyanve ...	99,658	24,978	32,147	4,141	...	3,688	...	453	38.422	42.563	1.704
Kon ...	24.695	5,656	3,508	630	...	564	...	66	14.901	15,531	1,164
Majhwa ...	26,071	2,853	3,878	7,796	...	7,271	...	525	11,544	19,340	2.371
Tahsil Mirzapur ...	758.342	154,839	372,448	29,808	...	26,425	...	3.683	200,947	231,055	14,108
Bhagwat ...	85,452	27.792	31,773	6,817	...	3,844	...	2,973	19,070	25,887	3,435
Qariat Sikhar ...	28,566	5,543	2,340	344	...	260	...	84	20,339	20,683	2,108
Ahraura ...	47,230	12,730	23,822	5,409	...	2,928	...	2,481	5,269	10,678	1 111
Saktesgarh ...	110,726	28 670	63,567	5,489	...	722	...	4,767	13.000	18,489	1,244
Chunar	31,146	5,542	5,255	2,108	...	1,906	...	202	18,241	20.349	2 792
Bhuili ...	56,502	6.447	7,757	13,714	...	8,973	...	4,741	28,584	42,298	7,097
Tahsil Chunar ...	359.622	86,724	134,514	21.881		18.633		15,248	104.503	138,384	17.787
Barhar ...	290,485	39,256	167,198	27,634	...	257	...	27,377	56 397	84,031	7,855
Bijaigarh	128,030	21,537	65,157	14,200	...	300	...	13,900	27,136	41,336	4,797
Agori ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..
Singrauli	..	...	...	...	...		...			...	...
Tahsil Robertsganj	418,515	60,793	232,355	41,834	...	557	...	41.277	83,533	125.367	12,652
Bhadohi ...	253,390	60,421	38,906	60,642	...	59,959	...	683	93,421	154.063	25.558
Kera-Mangraur	102,413	9.621	29,336	30,755	...	11,698	...	19,057	32,701	63,456	6,245
Tahsil Family Domains.	355,803	70,042	68,242	91,397	..	71,657		19,740	126.122	217,519	31,803
District total ...	1,892,282	372,398	807,559	184,920	...	117,272	...	79,948	515,105	712,325	76,350

TABLE VI.—*Area in acres under the principal crops, Tahsil Mirzapur.*

Year.	Rabi.						Kharif.				
	Total	Wheat alone and mixed.	Barley alone and mixed.	Gram.	Peas.	Alsi.	Total.	Juar alone and mixed.	Bajra alone and mixed.	Rice.	Kodon.
Fasli.											
1305	117,272	18,370	64,405	16,155	4,670	10,240	169 236	33,939	34,922	30,856	39,804
1306	121 776	18.066	58,452	26,011	7,587	7,227	147,002	25,260	24,446	40,491	30 652
1307	107,338	14,257	47,533	29,067	7,217	4,141	154,083	22,528	32,057	47,294	28,330
1308	92,327	...	...			...	158,232	23,802	34,998	43,058	26,947
1309	1,11,330	12,185	36,807	49,940	6,843	1,723	172,376	26,590	32,119	41,831	37,156
1310	130,629	18,435	44,906	45,857	7,241	9,618	174,526	30,717	33,229	41,797	35,567
1311	152,371	27,069	54,682	36,879	7,153	21,057	166,224	23,094	43,042	33,378	33,775
1312	154,050	32,516	62,018	27,566	7.247	19,316	187,892	27,099	30,808	45,901	48,658
1313	121,082	16,130	47,786	41,875	4,696	6,247	178,695	25,897	34,404	42,494	273
1314	135,539	20,238	52,230	39,132	5,908	13,058	835,863	29,443	32,451	45,111	226
1315	63,918	8,089	31,786	17,258	3,880	102	880,148	23,980	38,857	42,902	40,880
1316											
1317											
1318											
1319											
1320											
1321											
1322											
1323											
1324											
1325											

TABLE VI—(continued).—*Area in acres under the principal crops, Tahsil Chunar.*

Year.	Rabi. Total.	Rabi. Wheat alone and mixed.	Rabi. Barley alone and mixed.	Rabi. Gram.	Rabi. Peas.	Rabi. Alsi.	Kharif. Total.	Kharif. Juar alone and mixed.	Kharif. Bajra and bajra and arhar.	Kharif. Rice.	Kharif. Sanwan.
Fasli.											
1305	96,352	23,424	34,294	14,252	13,633	4,979	86,917	6,340	16,448	37,040	14,010
1306	96,716	21,534	32,779	13,555	19,483	3,212	90,921	5,743	13,982	46,053	10,961
1307	90,379	20.563	28,515	16,544	16,510	2,181	85,623	5,511	16,193	45,802	7,153
1308	63,960	...	...	...		...	86,002	5,779	19.219	35,668	10,063
1309	83,260	15,388	18,474	30,350	12,412	1,545	100,296	6,556	15.533	44,346	14,411
1310	97,334	23,140	21,711	25,187	7,908	4,241	99,124	8,073	16,628	41,649	16,358
1311	104,019	24.616	26,883	16,102	9,236	7,477	83,915	5,739	22,403	36,283	11,366
1312	101,788	24;034	27,333	15;493	9,196	7,164	102,299	7,159	15,560	48,486	13,394
1313	90 348	18,154	22,865	19,713	7,487	4,572	100,949	7,661	17.384	45,263	6,537
1314	90,983	20.389	25,425	17,950	7,531	5,165	97,250	7,685	17.467	47,049	6,746
1315	53.949	9,883	17,751	12,565	6,396	376	101,663	7,589	19,029	45,456	12,450
1316											
1317											
1318											
1319											
1320											
1321											
1322											
1323											
1324											
1325											

TABLE VI—(continued).—*Area in acres under the principal crops, Tahsil Robertsganj.*

Year.	Rabi.						Kharif.				
	Total.	Wheat alone and mixed.	Barley alone and mixed.	Gram.	Peas.	Alsi.	Total.	Rice	Maize.	Kodon.	Sanwan.
Fasli.											
1305	81,586	27,314	16,325	6,744	12,283	11,577	90,685	61,151	3,274	15,426	4,320
1306	78,600	28,863	12,669	6,333	19,681	6,605	98,661	58,851	3,720	20.133	9,006
1307	61,522	21,112	9,351	6,673	11,856	5,945	87,509	64,650	3,147	11,178	2,499
1308	59,652	...		...	...	...	84,648	34,892	3,871	20,839	7,738
1309	66,452	23,517	8,117	12,740	9,589	5,761	105,924	45,126	4,761	31,667	12,045
1310	93,108	32,945	10,481	15,373	237	11,975	103,054	48,155	4,800	47,451	11,339
1311	102,291	39,143	11,211	12,365	317	16,035	108,232	34,857	4,676	27,580	16,665
1312	99,962	37,315	10,608	10,364	377	16,427	116,121	55,511	4,798	32,213	12,881
1313	90,679	32,832	12,854	11,563	253	11,762	100,849	52,379	4,150	288	25,833
1314	91,988	32,276	11,533	12,683	191	13,390	107,023	59,157	4 479	288	25,463
1315	36,068	14,536	4,676	5,982	89	1,733	101,891	56,747	4,383	26,059	8,684
1316											
1317											
1318											
1319											
1320											
1321											
1322											
1323											
1324											
1325											

TABLE VI—(continued).—*Area in acres under the principal crops, Tahsil Korh.*

Year.	Rabi.					Kharif.				
	Total.	Wheat alone and mixed.	Barley alone and mixed.	Gram.	Peas.	Total.	Juar alone and mixed.	Bajra alone and mixed.	Rice.	Sugar-cane.
Fasli.										
1305	85,851	15,203	51,970	4,965	11,088	101,439	22,240	18,977	32,516	5,854
1306	87,172	14,583	48,107	6,137	15,566	96,938	14,712	17,804	39,083	7,070
1307	82,407	14,974	43,926	6,728	14,299	100,047	16,256	21,081	40,920	7,317
1308	83,667	14,700	41,776	9,425	14,761	107,734	20,062	23,358	40,192	6,586
1309	85,051	12,746	39,033	13,189	16,871	106,602	20,768	20,148	39,066	7,212
1310	90,214	15,406	41,919	12,506	16,660	105,866	22,761	20,192	39,121	5,099
1311	97,188	16,808	46,530	11,488	18,270	104,711	18,392	26,662	36,908	9,167
1312	95,473	17,231	48,775	7,116	17,479	99,292	21,876	16,413	39,480	5,762
1313	78,628	11,313	41,730	11,110	10,956	112,521	21,193	23,255	40,501	6,804
1314	83,658	14,008	44,206	10,160	12,842	107,923	21,579	18,250	40,888	7,870
1315	72,329	9,488	41,152	6,105	13,764	106,913	20,680	24,215	36,428	7,544
1316										
1317										
1318										
1319										
1320										
1321										
1322										
1323										
1324										
1325										

TABLE--VI—(concluded)—*Area in acres under the principal crops, Tahsil Chakia.*

Year.	Rabi.					Kharif.				
	Total.	Wheat alone and mixed.	Barley alone.	Opium.	Alsi.	Total.	Rice.	Sugar-cane.	Juar alone and mixed.	Bajra alone and mixed.
Fasli.										
1305	42,765	7,912	14,251	2,350	1,923	38,351	26,380	1,392	214	1,011
1306	42,153	5,926	13,376	2,220	1,535	43,967	34,547	1,637	138	375
1307	42,459	7,065	13,693	2,323	1,007	39,060	33,311	1,263	39	712
1308	47,534	9,997	13,582	2,170	1,528	38,574	27,810	1,184	106	1 651
1309	32,500	5,253	8,950	2,104	461	45,497	33,156	1,809	154	792
1310	43,380	6,749	11,227	2,080	1,716	45,541	32,716	1,711	236	897
1311	50,772	9,159	13,110	2,309	3,145	42,942	30,538	1,319	188	1,581
1312	50,910	8,163	13,292	2,363	3,787	46,962	36,239	1,655	145	471
1313	42,770	6,595	11,029	2,386	1,521	44,811	34,856	2,020	130	448
1314	38,938	5,887	9,277	2,295	1,784	47,231	35,673	2,356	188	573
1315	22,329	3,432	7,050	1,945	180	47,365	35,084	2,501	273	896
1316										
1317										
1318										
1319										
1320										
1321										
1322										
1323										
1324										
1325										

TABLE VII.—*Criminal Justice.*

Year.	Number of persons convicted or bound over in respect of—												Cases under—	
	Offences against public tranquillity (Chapter VIII).	Offences affecting life.	Grievous hurt.	Rape.	Cattle theft.	Criminal force and assault.	Theft.	Robbery and dakaiti.	Receiving stolen property.	Criminal trespass.	Bad livelihood.	Keeping the peace.	Opium Act.	Excise Act.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
1898 ...	77	34	43	3	46	68	335	84	101	171	38	26	10	21
1899 ...	107	21	28	4	39	60	251	24	75	145	17	3	26	25
1900 ...	114	23	32	4	51	25	376	24	86	230	14	13	19	23
1901 ...	176	46	57	4	31	28	241	39	69	199	51	79	12	12
1902 ...	168	29	123	...	26	39	255	24	57	175	87	46	5	7
1903 ...	140	35	61	1	57	43	225	26	62	150	116	39	16	10
1904 ...	72	42	52	6	60	46	228	9	69	147	67	52	9	10
1905 ...	12	18	41	4	76	13	824	26	82	37	80	24	2	23
1906 ...	12	18	47	...	68	18	816	32	85	44	92	15	7	17
1907 ...	13	8	45	4	84	10	771	20	71	43	40	50	4	10
1908 ...	14	11	43	1	129	10	929	47	68	22	48	44	13	6
1909 ...														
1910 ...														
1911 ...														
1912 ...														
1913 ...														
1914 ...														

TABLE VIII.—*Cognizable crime.*

Year.	Number of cases investigated by police.			Number of persons.		
	Suo-motu.	By orders of Magistrate.	Sent up for trial.	Tried.	Acquitted or discharged.	Convicted.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1898	2,184	..	1,466	1,916	317	1,599
1899	1,850	7	1,221	1,736	459	1,277
1900	2,005	1	1,257	1,768	343	1,425
1901	1,719	1	990	1,428	343	1,085
1902	1,557	1	1,029	1,541	339	1,202
1903	1,657	6	1,178	1,106	167	939
1904	1,541	1	1,010	950	132	818
1905	1,596	16	915	915	128	787
1906	1,413	4	786	786	127	659
1907	1,146	19	669	669	106	563
1908	1,400	34	725	725	115	610
1909						
1910						
1911						
1912						
1913						
1914						
1915						
1916						
1917						
1918						
1919						
1920						
1921						

TABLE IX.—*Revenue demand at successive settlements.*

Pargana.	Year of settlement.							
	Permanent settlement, 1795.	Revision, 1842-47.	Revision, 1885. *					
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.					
Tappa Uprandh, pargana Kantit.	45,278 10 0	51,102 0 0	...					
Tappa Chaurasi, pargana Kantit.	90,961 0 3	98,052 0 0	...					
Tappa Chhiyanve, pargana Kantit,	1,00,572 14 0	80,365 0 0	78,880 0 6					
Tappa Kon, pargana Kantit ...	39,628 11 6	39,067 0 0	38,775 4 0					
Taluqa Majhwa, pargana Kaswar.	57,443 7 0	49,052 0 0	48,971 1 6					
Tahsil Mirzapur ...	3,33,884 10 9	3,17,638 0 0	1,66,626 6 0					
Pargana Bhagwat	29,481 15 3	38,397 0 0	38,282 2 9					
Pargana Qariat Sikhar ...	53,523 0 0	57,671 12 8	57,484 9 4					
Pargana Ahraura	14,252 4 3	16,980 0 0	16,949 6 6					
Taluqa Saktesgarh, pargana Kantit.	15,580 8 0	13,368 0 0	...					
Pargana Chunar	41,302 2 6	54,380 9 6	54,219 1 6					

*Only the lowland of the district came under revision. This column represents the demand as it stood in the year of revision, as the revenue was not amended.

TABLE IX—(concluded).—*Revenue demand at successive settlements.*

Pargana.	Year of settlement.							
	Permanent settlement, 1795.	Revision, 1842-47.	Revision, 1885.*					
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.					
Pargana Bhuili	90,890 8 0	1,06,764 0 0	1,05,553 8 0					
Tahsil Chunar ...	2,45,030 6 0	2,87,561 6 2	2,72,488 12 1					
Pargana Barhar	53,251 13 6 (For Agori Barhar.)	49,241 0 0	...					
Pargana Bijaigarh	1,196 9 0	14,348 0 0	...					
Pargana Agori	Not assessed.	15 0 0	...					
Pargana Singrauli (including Dudhi).		Not assessed.	...					
Tahsil Robertsganj ...	4,448 6 6	63,604 0 0	...					
Pargana Bhadohi ...	1,79,659 0 0	...	...					
Pargana Kera Mangraur ...	Not assessed.	...	...					
Family Domains ...	1,79,659 0 0	...	...					
Total district ...	8,13,022 7 3	6,68,803 6 2	4,39,115 2 1					

*Only the lowland of the district came under revision. This colums represents the demand as it stood in the year of revision as the revenue was not amended.

TABLE X.—*Present demand for revenue and cesses 1315 fasli.*

Pargana and tahsil.	Where included in *Ain-i-Akbari.*	Revenue.	Cesses.	Total.	Incidence per acre — Cultivated.	Incidence per acre — Total.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
		Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
Tappa Upraudh, pargana Kantit.	Pargana Kantit ...	55,386 7 9	7,916 1 6	63,302 9 3	0 11 11	0 2 8
Tappa Chaurasi, pargana Kantit.	Ditto ...	97,171 14 6	13,907 15 6	1,11,079 14 0	1 9 11	0 8 4
Tappa Chhiyanve, pargana Kantit.	Ditto ...	80,787 0 6	10,584 3 0	91,371 3 6	2 2 4	0 14 8
Tappa Kon, pargana Kantit ...	Pargana Bhadohi.	38,777 4 0	3,887 6 9	42,664 10 9	2 11 11	1 11 9
Taluqa Majhwa, pargana Kaswar.	Pargana Kaswar...	48,971 1 6	4,591 1 0	53,562 2 6	2 12 4	2 0 10
Tahsil Mirzapur ...	...	3,21,093 12 3	40,886 11 9	3,61,980 8 0	2 0 1	1 1 3
Pargana Bhagwat	Pargana Hanwa ..	38,282 2 9	5,582 13 8	43,865 0 5	1 11 2	0 8 3
Pargana Qariat Sikhar ...	Qariat In ru-i-ab.	57,841 11 8	4,396 13 5	62,238 9 1	3 0 2	2 2 10
Pargana Ahraura	Ahirwara ...	16,949 6 6	2,446 9 0	19,395 15 6	1 13 1	0 6 8
Taluqa Saktesgarh, pargana Kantit.	Pargana Kantit...	13,998 0 0	1,809 1 0	15,807 1 0	0 13 8	0 2 3
Pargana Chunar	Haveli Chunar ..	54,195 1 6	4,629 7 0	58,824 8 6	2 14 3	1 14 3
Pargana Bhuili	Pargana Bhuili ...	1,05,519 8 0	9,324 7 2	1,14,843 15 2	2 12 3	2 0 7
Tahsil Chunar ...	...	2,86,785 14 5	28,189 3 3	3,14,975 1 8	2 2 9	1 3 1
Pargana Barhar	Sarkar Bhatghora	49,241 5 0	7,586 0 0	56,827 5 0	0 10 10	0 3 2
Pargana Bijaigarh ...	Sarkar Bhatghura,	14,348 5 0	4,055 6 10	18,403 11 10	0 7 2	0 2 4
Pargana Agori	} Sarkar Bhatghora or Sarkar Rohtas	15 0 0	89 6 0	104 6 0	...	...
Pargana Singrauli (with Dudhi.)		...	38 4 1	38 4 1	...	...
Tahsil Robertsganj ...	...	63,604 10 0	11,769 0 11	75,373 10 11	...	
Pargana Bhadohi	Pargana Bhadohi.	1,72,837 10 8	11,626 4 11	1,84,463 15 7	1 3 2	0 11 5
Pargana Kera Mangraur ...	Pargana Mangraur	.	Not assessed.	...	..	...
Family Domains	..	1,72,837 10 8	11,626 4 11	1,84,463 15 7	1 3 2	0 11 5
Total District ...	...	8,44,321 15 4	92,471 4 10	9,36,793 4 2	..	...

TABLE XI.—*Excise.*

Years.	Receipts from foreign liquors.	Country spirit.		Receipts from Tari and Sandhi.	Drugs.			Opium.		Total receipts.	Total charges.	Incidence of receipts per 10,000 of population from—			Number of shops for sale of—		
		Receipts	Consumption in gallons		Total receipts.	Consumption in maunds of— *Ganja.*	Consumption in maunds of— *Charas.*	Total receipts.	Consumption.			Liquor including *tari.*	Drugs.	Opium.	Country spirit.	Drugs.	Opium.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Mds. s.	Mds. s.	Rs.	Mds. s.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.					
1890-91 ...	384	1,10,026	50,151	788	28,667	Not available.	Not available.	20,373	45 14	16,135	2,415	966	249	177	390	128	36
1891-92 ...	576	1,21,140	53,736	1,104	21.000			20,911	48 9	1,66,060	3,737	1,057	171	180	396	128	36
1892-93 ...	384	1,23,052	57,498	2,048	24,000	79 0	24 18	20,510	46 2	1,70,971	3,254	1,080	206	184	394	129	38
1893-94 ...	192	1,29,586	56,099	1,546	27,000	40 5	12 0	21,511	46 11	1,79,888	2,639	1,284	232	185	397	129	36
1894-95 ...	656	1,22,161	47,627	1,605	31,667	37 10	10 0	19,896	41 14	1,76,039	2,097	1.136	272	171	393	129	36
1895-96 ...	432	97,457	43,150	1,217	31,667	30 0	18 33	18,786	40 36	1,49,732	1,766	945	273	162	378	129	35
1896-97 ...	384	65,308	32,744	2,010	26,555	21 13	13 13	15,815	36 9	1,10,076	1,323	658	229	136	356	129	33
1897-98 ...	512	79,471	40,307	1,875	29,680	35 29	31 4	15,725	37 25	1,27,280	1,518	775	255	135	305	129	33
1898-99 ...	592	1,22,389	62,911	1,525	27,800	41 1	24 11	16,372	39 7	1,68,689	1,363	1,228	328	142	325	129	33
1899-1900...	725	1,40,102	66,206	2,200	23,000	40 15	22 13	17,41[illegible]	39 31	1,83,448	1,759	1,379	316	154	338	129	33
1900-01 ...	834	1,51,118	62,243	1,950	39,812	36 22	26 30	19,319	36 13	2,13,036	2,802	1,422	368	178	338	129	33
1901-02 ...	530	1,62,425	56,814	1,975	41,579	37 6	32 26	26,145	42 30	2,32,657	2,393	1,527	385	242	315	129	33
1902-03 ...	386	1,79,183	66,691	2,000	43,752	41 38	35 18	22,987	38 6	2,48,316	2,222	1,681	405	213	326	129	33
1903-04 ...	299	1,87,490	65,405	2,125	49,814	29 28	26 31	32,401	69 4½	2,72,180	3,000	1,758	462	300	338	129	33
1904-05 ...	206	2,04,584	68,606	1,731	50,680	29 30	30 35	30,954	65 10	2,88,210	2,592	1,912	469	287	341	129	34
1905-06 ...	356	2,04,950	62,337	2,088	53,752	30 2	39 37	26,244	51 1	2,87,421	2,518	1.920	498	243	344	129	34
1906-07 ...	375	2,02,492	63,758	2,288	58,659	16 19	30 8	20,632	46 4	2,84,509	3,116	1,899	543	191	300	129	33
1907-08 ...																	
1908-09 ...																	
1909-10 ...																	
1910-11 ...																	
1911-12 ...																	
1912-13 ...																	

TABLE XII.—*Stamps.*

Years.	Receipts from—			Total charges.
	Non-Judicial.	Court-fee, including copies.	All sources.	
1	2	3	4	5
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1890-91				
1891-92	46,921	97,092	1,44,363	3,946
1892-93	56,272	99,409	1,56,193	3,114
1893-94	51,991	98,638	1,50,969	3,455
1894-95	57,891	1,12,154	1,70,360	4,219
1895-96	59,517	1,06,113	1,65,911	3,660
1896-97	56,249	1,02,537	1,58,978	4,768
1897-98	54,557	99,116	1,54,109	3,817
1898-99	56,091	1,04,013	1,61,294	3,690
1899-1900	43,001	95,763	1,41,056	4,614
1900-01	45,175	1,05,941	1,51,319	2,860
1901-02	60,414	1,06,383	1,68,711	3,234*
1902-03	56,395	1,04,056	1,62,410	5,414
1903-04	56,118	1,05,952	1,64,185	5,814
1904-05	53,040	1,06,855	1,61,785	6,066
1905-06	52,142	1,08,416	1,62,562	4,376
1906-07	53,259	1,13,409	1,68,643	4,584
1907-08	65,306	1,27,224	1,94,697	5,029
1908-09				
1909-10				
1910-11				
1911-12				
1912-13				

*Discount only.

Table XIII.—*Income-tax.*

Year.	Total receipts.	Collected by companies.		Profits of companies.		Other sources, Part IV.				Total charges.	Objections under Part IV.	
						Under Rs. 2,000.		Over Rs. 2,000.				
		Assessees.	Tax.	Assessees.	Tax.	Assessees.	Tax.	Assessees.	Tax.		Number filed.	Wholly or partly successful.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
	Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.	Rs.		
1890-91	55,346	7	429	...	...	1,293	20,623	145	28,191	685	Not available.	
1891-92	55,407	11	400	...	...	1,370	20,915	143	29,029	563		
1892-93	56,624	14	451	...	...	1,382	20,993	167	29,800	813		
1893-94	54,636	12	503	...	...	1,360	21,304	149	27,560	492	386	156
1894-95	53,279	15	452	...	...	1,495	22,399	152	28,348	272	456	96
1895-96	64,449	13	455	...	...	1,574	22,902	204	37,942	77	682	238
1896-97	56,666	13	506	...	...	1,440	21,319	207	31,805	102	732	301
1897-98	52,257	13	567	...	...	1,220	16,452	172	28,010	178	470	179
1898-99	50,687	19	622	...	...	988	15,103	161	28,836	250	280	117
1899-1900	54,951	20	720	...	...	1,079	16,720	164	33,654	1,643	345	125
1900-01	57,090	24	799	...	...	1,253	19,375	202	32,937	387	816	373
1901-02	58,149	21	862	...	...	1,109	18,388	180	34,581	178	595	210
1902-03	60,409	23	944	1	630	829	14,172	173	33,500	62	358	103
1903-04	48,860	19	1,165	1	801	293	8,060	173	31,531	698	164	41
1904-05	49,677	14	864	1	505	278	7,843	183	33,419	38	230	91
1905-06	50,678	18	1,482	...	...	292	8,170	188	33,368	153	243	90
1906-07	49,459	15	939	1	432	265	7,892	180	32,744	56	212	83
1907-08	49,889	17	1,103	1	496	277	8,304	180	32,394	36	281	121
1908-09												
1909-10												
1910-11												
1911-12												

TABLE XIV—*Income-tax f r city over* 50,000 (*Part IV only*).

Year.	City of Mirzapur. Under Rs. 2,000. Assessees.	City of Mirzapur. Under Rs. 2,000. Tax.	City of Mirzapur. Over Rs. 2,000. Assessees.	City of Mirzapur. Over Rs. 2,000. Tax.	Year.	Tahsil Mirzapur. Under Rs 2,000. Assessees.	Tahsil Mirzapur. Under Rs 2,000. Tax.	Tahsil Mirzapur. Over Rs. 2,000. Assessees.	Tahsil Mirzapur. Over Rs. 2,000. Tax.
1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
		Rs.		Rs.			Rs.		Rs.
1890-91 ...	367	6,438	102	23,615	1890-91 ...	357	5,373	11	1,162
1891-92 ...	365	6,655	104	25,171	1891-92 ...	398	5,106	10	844
1892-93 ..	332	5,974	123	27,524	1892-93 ...	392	5,043	13	1,161
1893-94 ...	320	5,251	108	23,012	1893-94 ...	353	4,734	11	1,157
1894-95 ...	357	5,806	109	23,807	1894-95 ..	368	5,015	11	1,175
1895-96 ...	382	5,975	141	31,745	1895-96 ..	419	5,586	12	1,445
1896-97 ...	341	5,503	133	24,920	1896-97 ...	383	5,011	21	2,135
1897-98 ...	134	2,631	111	21,774	1897-98 ...	228	3,112	14	1,751
1898-99 ..	134	2,102	101	22,474	1898-99 ...	213	3,018	13	1,311
1899-1900 ..	150	2,755	104	27,596	1899-1900 ...	251	3,416	16	1,210
1900-01 ..	254	4,469	134	26,426	1900-01 ...	248	3,473	22	1,634
1901-02 ..	238	3,950	109	27,488	1901-02 ...	220	3,519	16	960
1902-03 ...	189	3,601	123	28,417	1902-03 ...	166	2,668	13	826
1903-04 ...	89	2,288	123	26,755	1903-04 ...	45	1,197	15	859
1904-05 ...	77	1,858	127	27,810	1904-05 ...	46	1,253	7	519
1905-06 ...	93	2,424	130	27,911	1905-06 ...	41	1,116	11	640
1906-07 ...	89	2,654	128	27,728	1906-07 ...	38	1,020	10	652
1907-08 ...	94	2,824	132	28,127	1907-08 ...	34	901	11	673
1908-09 ...					1908-09 ...				
1909-10 ...					1909-10 ...				
1910-11 ...					1910-11 ...				

TABLE XIV—*Income-tax by tahsils (Part IV only).*

Year.	Tahsil Chunar. Under Rs. 2,000. Assessees.	Tahsil Chunar. Under Rs. 2,000. Tax.	Tahsil Chunar. Over Rs. 2,000. Assessees.	Tahsil Chunar. Over Rs. 2,000. Tax.	Year.	Tahsil Robertsganj. Under Rs. 2,000. Assessees.	Tahsil Robertsganj. Under Rs. 2,000. Tax.	Tahsil Robertsganj. Over Rs. 2,000. Assessees.	Tahsil Robertsganj. Over Rs. 2,000. Tax.
1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
		Rs.		Rs.			Rs.		Rs.
1890-91 ...	251	4,187	19	2,361	1890-91 ...	138	2,111	3	199
1891-92 ...	256	4,215	18	2,023	1891-92 ...	162	2,381	1	86
1892-93 ...	291	4,588	18	1,926	1892-93 ...	164	2,503	5	339
1893-94 ...	285	5,597	17	1,900	1893-94 ...	196	2,897	7	591
1894-95 ...	311	5,150	16	1,648	1894-95 ...	243	3,369	10	799
1895-96 ...	324	4,930	31	2,850	1895-96 ...	236	3,381	14	985
1896-97 ...	282	4,485	30	2,578	1896-97 ...	189	2,922	16	1,193
1897-98 ...	233	4,011	25	2,314	1897-98 ...	161	2,353	15	1,232
1898-99 ...	222	3,732	23	2,361	1898-99 ...	162	2,413	15	1,203
1899-1900 ...	244	4,068	22	2,286	1899-1900 ...	169	2,512	14	1,141
1900-01 ...	257	4,249	24	2,513	1900-01 ...	199	2,889	16	1,093
1901-02 ...	268	4,996	26	2,915	1901-02 ...	183	2,826	8	681
1902-03 ...	277	5,064	26	3,145	1902-03 ...	179	2,702	11	868
1903-04 ...	112	3,307	25	3,002	1903-04 ...	47	1,268	10	915
1904-05 ...	107	3,400	39	4,180	1904-05 ...	48	1,332	10	910
1905-06 ...	109	3,196	36	3,725	1905-06 ...	49	1,434	11	1,092
1906-07 ...	100	3,016	30	3,043	1906-07 ...	38	1,202	12	1,322
1907-08 ...	108	3,354	24	2,450	1907-08 ...	41	1,225	13	1,145
1908-09 ...					1908-09 ...				
1909-10 ...					1909-10 ...				
1910-11 ...					1910-11 ...				
1911-12 ...					1911-12 ...				
1912-13 ...					1912-13 ...				

TABLE XIV—*Income-tax by tahsils (Part IV only).*

Year.	Tahsil Korh. Under Rs. 2,000. Assessees.	Tax	Over Rs. 2,000 Assessees.	Tax.	Year.	Tahsil Chakia. Under Rs. 2,000. Assessees	Tax.	Over Rs. 2,000. Assessees.	Tax.
1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
		Rs.		Rs.			Rs.		Rs.
1890-91 ...	164	2,382	9	788	1890-91 ...	20	240	1	65
1891-92 ...	165	2,263	8	775	1891-92 ..	21	250	1	65
1892-93 ...	177	2,427	8	852	1892-93 ...	26	358	...	..
1893-94 ...	180	2,472	6	939	1893-94 ...	26	353	...	...
1894-95 ...	187	2,665	6	919	1894-95 ..	29	393	...	...
1895-96 ...	182	2,599	6	919	1895-96 ...	31	431	...	...
1896-97 ...	197	2,775	7	979	1896-97 ...	48	624	...	...
1897-98 ...	223	3,652	7	938	1897-98 ...	41	693	...	...
1898-99 ...	217	3,212	9	1,566	1898-99 ...	40	626	...	...
1899-1900 ...	220	3,313	8	1,420	1899-1900 ...	45	656	...	...
1900-01 ...	253	3,712	6	1,272	1900-01 ...	42	583	..	...
1901-02 ...	252	3,697	6	1,272	1901-02 ...	38	541	...	...
1902-03 ..	266	3,900	7	1,325	1902-03 ...	38	506	...	...
1903-04 ...	55	1,351	7	1,300	1903-04 ...	6	136	..	...
1904-05 ...	55	1,337	7	1,376	1904-05 ...	6	128	...	...
1905-06 ...	60	1,455	7	1,337	1905-06 ...	6	128	...	...
1906-07 ...	55	1,417	5	1,233	1906-07 ...	6	128	...	...
1907-08 ..	35	1.372	4	1.144	1907-08 ..	6	123	...	...
1908-09 ...					1908-09 ...				
1909-10 ...					1909-10 ...				
1910-11 ...					1910-11 ...				
1911-12 ...					1911-12 ...				
1912-13 ...					1912-13 ...				

TABLE XV.—*District Board.*

Year.	Receipts.							Expenditure.									
	Education.	Medical.	Scientific, &c.	Miscellaneous.	Civil works.	Pounds.	Ferries.	Total expenditure.	Contribution to Provincial funds.	General Administration	Education.	Medical.	Scientific, &c.	Miscellaneous.	Civil works.	Pounds.	Debt.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1890-91 ...	4,448	3,580	...	356	...	2,521	...	79,183	...	986	31,033	11,949	...	2,006	33,209	...	...
1891-92 ...	4,276	2,945	...	521	...	3,674	...	80,140	...	1,017	29,820	12,377	...	1,909	35,017	...	...
1892-93 ...	4,294	3,328	...	358	...	2,976	...	79,572	...	1,020	31,304	12,193	...	1,648	33,407	...	...
1893-94 ...	4,401	2,811	...	540	...	3,658	...	84,006	...	1,005	30,120	13,561	...	1,881	37,439	...	...
1894-95 ...	4,471	3,263	...	515	...	2,911	...	84,715	...	937	30,433	13,675	...	1,745	37,925	...	...
1895-96 ...	4,240	4,147	...	752	822	3,216	...	81,315	...	1,059	29,670	14,201	...	174	36,211	...	...
1896-97 ...	3,815	4,288	...	1,956	1,418	2,315	...	79,930	...	1,155	31,271	13,417	...	382	33,705	...	...
1897-98 ...	2,428	3,995	...	4,334	1,881	2,687	...	86,115	...	1,176	30,212	14,579	...	...	40,148	...	...
1898-99 ...	2,615	3,892	...	4,231	2,335	2,315	...	85,759	...	1,731	30,438	14,615	...	...	38,615	...	360
1899-1900	2,990	5,654	...	4,182	1,804	*4,740	†27,484	99,961	...	1,679	31,249	14,565	...	40	49,668	2,760	...
1900-01 ...	3,199	5,044	...	4,229	2,136	5,254	30,085	1,13,366	...	1,845	31,219	16,211	...	52	58,772	3,072	2,195
1901-02 ...	5,309	7,502	...	151	2,511	5,369	27,600	1,09,345	...	2,326	33,490	16,382	...	62	52,465	2,910	1,710
1902-03 ...	6,290	5,966	...	517	1,914	4,856	30,582	1,33,045	...	2,774	37,057	18,711	...	320	69,453	3,030	1,700
1903-04 ...	6,231	6,358	...	594	2,159	5,864	30,995	1,23,139	...	2,461	39,432	21,345	...	424	54,554	3,338	1,585
1904-05 ...	6,005	7,639	...	515	2,684	6,181	29,993	1,35,855	...	2,768	39,885	21,464	268	489	61,105	3,396	6,480
1905-06 ...	5,784	7,555	...	619	2,076	5,856	27,785	1,51,152	...	3,231	46,345	23,723	201	1,592	71,460	2,831	1,769
1906-07 ...	5,838	7,221	...	557	2,849	5,850	26,482	1,64,245	...	3,785	52,020	24,171	476	610	79,496	2,737	950
1907-08 ...																	
1908-09 ...																	
1909-10 ...																	
1910-11 ...																	
1911-12 ...																	
1912-13 ...																	
1913-14 ...																	

* Formerly net receipts only were shown. From this year receipts and also expenditure are given.
† From this year the gross receipts from ferries were for the first time credited to the District Board.

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Table XVI.—*Municipality of Mirzapur.*

Year.	Income.							Expenditure.									
	Octroi.	Tax on houses and lands.	Other taxes.	Rents.	Loans.	Other sources.	Total.	Administration and collection of taxes.	Public safety	Water supply and drainage. Capital.	Water supply and drainage. Maintenance	Conservancy	Hospitals and Dispensaries.	Public works.	Public Instructions.	Other heads	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs	Rs.
1890-91 ...	48,284	...	139	5,536	...	4,976	58,935	6,844	9,431	...	404	19,263	2,376	11,142	940	7,972	58,422
1891-92 ...	52,563	...	...	2,040	...	7,295	61,898	6,270	9,652	91	161	21,805	1,839	7,911	961	10,557	59,247
1892-93 ...	48,626	...	...	1,970	...	7,357	57,953	6,233	9,584	...	132	19,715	1,839	8,237	976	10,604	57,320
1893-94 ...	53,155		...	2,195	...	7,105	62,455	6,241	9,870	...	134	20,238	1,789	7,912	920	8,360	55,464
1894-95 ...	62,972	...	...	2,339	...	5,548	70,859	6,920	10,756	...	457	19,408	1,839	7,274	943	13,729	61,326
1895-96 ...	52,297	...	...	2,738	...	5,654	60,689	7,895	10,735	...	445	19,931	1,839	7,126	923	7,853	56,747
1896-97 ...	50,117	...	...	2,791	...	5,918	58,826	6,971	11,177	...	451	19,542	1,939	13,857	1,058	4,347	59,342
1897-98 ...	51,398	..	...	2,752	...	6,210	60,360	8,760	14,796	...	123	21,271	7,847	11,474	1,744	8,480	74,495
1898-99 ...	53,251	...	...	2,875	...	8,147	64,273	7,717	12,865	...	454	21,291	3,973	7,560	1,970	7,977	63,807
1899-1900	51,344	...	...	2,915	...	7,795	62,054	7,233	14,045	...	707	21,520	3,715	7,827	2,028	8,434	65,509
1900-01 ...	52,988	...	...	2,787	...	8,575	64,350	8,433	13,467	...	335	20,943	4,430	6,443	4,027	7,787	65,865
1901-02 ...	57,650	...	255	2,892	...	7,660	68,457	6,990	12,714	...	2,518	21,282	3,956	8,174	4,084	7,207	66,925
1902-03 ...	54,549	...	170	3,041	...	8,889	66,649	8,422	12,334	..	1,136	17,629	4,032	8,118	4,140	5,791	61,602
1903-04 ...	68,976	...	201	3,794	...	9,725	82,696	10,703	12,302	...	312	19,431	4,219	10,824	4,023	5,247	67,061
1904-05 ...	72,164	...	154	5,648	5 000	14,562	1,47,528	12,555	10,692	19,789	4,000	21,413	4,429	19,646	4,059	10,189	1,06,772
1905-06 ...	83,876	...	166	4,469	1,35,000	10,142	2,33,653	13,814	3,159	1,55,764	9,042	28,286	4,458	35,045	4,592	13,942	2,68,102
1906-07 ...	83,822	...	...	4,287	75,000	42,947	2,06,056	15,062	9,729	67,761	9,750	35,606	4,461	15,834	4,187	23,078	1,85,468
1907-08 ...																	
1908-09 ...																	
1909-1910																	
1910-11 ...																	
1911-12 ...																	
1912-13 ...																	
1913-14 ...																	

TABLE XVII—*Distribution of Police*, 1908.

Thana.	Sub-inspectors.	Head constables.	Constables.	Municipal Police.	Town Police.	Rural Police.	Road Police.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1. Kotwali ...	3	9	142	...	...	168	10
2. Chunar ...	3	2	30	...	...	133	8
3. Bindhachal ...	2	2	22	...	..	89	2
4. Robertsganj ...	2	1	12	...	...		...
5. Gopiganj ...	2	1	12	...	3	156	16
6. Ahraura ...	2	1	12	...	...	111	4
7. Bhadohi ...	2	1	12	...	...	129	3
8. Aurai ...	2	1	12	...	...	102	10
9. Lalganj ...	2	1	12	...	...	1	4
10. Ghorawal ...	1	1	9	...	2	...	2
11. Chopan ...	1	1	9	...	...	...	2
12. Ujh ...	1	1	9	..	...	71	3
13. Suriawan ...	1	1	6	.	...	79	...
14. Chakia ..	1	1	6	...	...	...	...
15. Dudhi ...	1	1	6		...	...	...
16. Kachhwa ...	1	1	6	...	3	81	8
17. Drummondganj.	1	1	6	...	...	55	4
18. Mariahan ...	1	1	6	...	...	...	...
19. Khairawa ...	1	1	6	...	...	...	2
20 Shahganj ...	1	1	6	...	...	...	...
21. Kon ..	1	1	6	...	...	...	..
22. Pannuganj .	1	1	6	...	...	...	3
23. Halia ...	1	1	6	.	..	...	...
24. Gaipura ...	1	1	6	...	...	103	3
25. Pandri ...	1	1	6	..	...	63	2
26. Chhota Mirzapur.	1	1	6	...	...	70	2
Civil Reserve ...	6	13	87	...	...	...	...
Armed Police ..	.	...	...	..	...	...	...
Grand Total ...	43	63	516	...	8	1,411	88

TABLE XVIII.—*Education.*

Year.	Total.			Secondary education.			Primary education.		
	Schools and Colleges.	Scholars.		Schools	Scholars.		Schools.	Scholars.	
		Males.	Females.		Males.	Females		Males.	Females.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1896-97 ...	146	5,477	258	14	1,137	14	131	4,303	244
1897-98 ...	152	5,514	334	14	1,282	...	137	4,212	334
1898-99 ..	158	6,692	317	14	1,418	...	144	5,274	317
1899-1900 ...	166	7,630	185	14	1.507	...	151	6,096	185
1900-01 ...	162	7,561	289	15	1,540	12	146	5,972	177
1901-02 ..	169	7,554	241	15	647	78	152	6,873	89
1902-03 ...	230	8,558	403	14	667	80	215	7,883	323
1903-04 ...	190	8,096	305	15	1,638	68	174	6,451	237
1904-05 ...	192	7,684	301	14	1,417	69	175	6,013	232
1905-06 ...	222	8,558	317	15	1,248	89	206	7,303	228
1906-07 ...	229	8,771	144	8	818	...	221	7,953	144
1907-08 ...	210	8,617	354	6	810	...	204	7,807	354
1908-09 ...									
1909-10 ...									
1910-11 ...									
1911-12 ...									
1912-13 ...									
1913-14									

List of Schools, 1908.

Tahsil.	Pargana.	Locality.	Class of school.	Average attendance.
		A.—*Mirzapur City.*		
Mirzapur.	Pargana Kantit, tappa Chaurasi.	Mirzapur High school.	Anglo-Vernacular	198
		London Mission High school.	Ditto ...	266
		Anglo-Sanskrit Jubilee school.	Ditto ...	121
		Mirzapur Town school.	Middle Vernacular	78
		Anglo-Sanskrit Jubilee school, branch.	Upper Primary, aided by the municipality	41
		London Mission High school, brach.	Ditto ..	94
		London Mission Girls' school.	Ditto ...	94
		Bindhachal ...	Ditto ...	47
		Fateha ...	Ditto ...	73
		Gosain Tola ...	Lower Primary, municipal.	31
		Taylorganj ...	Ditto ...	36
		Chetganj ...	Ditto ...	28
		Wellesleyganj I...	Ditto ...	32
		Ditto II ..	Ditto ...	22
		Muzaffarganj ...	Ditto ...	30
		Bundelkhandi ...	Ditto ...	36
		Chhota Mirzapur	Ditto ...	25
		Badli Katra ...	Ditto ...	30
		Purani Kotwali ...	Ditto ...	29
		Burhenath ...	Ditto ...	47
		Belkharia Pura ...	Ditto ...	11
		B.—*Mirzapur District.*		
	Pargana Kantit, tappa Uppraudh.	Drummondganj ...	Upper Primary...	
		Dubar ...	Ditto ...	50
		Baraundha ...	Lower Primary...	54
		Halia .	Ditto ...	15
		Lalganj ...	Ditto ...	14
		Songrha ...	Lower Priamry aided.	18
				18
		Sobhi ...	Ditto ...	24
		Mandina ...	Ditto ...	22
	Pargana Kantit, tappa Chaurasi.	Deori ...	Upper Primary...	53
		Amoi -	Ditto ...	34
		Sindhaura ...	Lower Primary ...	36
		Barkachha ...	Ditto ...	21
		Gursandi ...	Ditto ...	42

List of Schools, 1908—(continued).

Tahsil.	Pargana.	Locality.	Class of school.	Average attendance.
Mirzapur—(*concluded*).	Pargana Kautit, tappa Chaurasi—(*concld.*).	Deopura ...	Lower Primary ...	21
		Kandhari ...	Ditto ...	13
		Chhataha ...	Ditto ...	32
		Kolepur ...	Ditto ...	35
		Biasrah ..	Ditto ...	38
		Mirzapur, branch	Ditto ...	95
		Bharpura ...	Lower Primary, aided.	15
		Jamui ...	Ditto ...	16
		Dariram ...	Ditto ...	17
		Kutwa ...	Lower, Court of Wards, Kantit estate.	18
		Bhatura ..	Ditto ...	24
		Gursar ...	Ditto ...	11
		Naroia ...	Ditto ..	16
		Gaurawa ..	Ditto ...	17
	Pargana Kantit, tappa Chhiyanve.	Raipuri ...	Upper Primary ...	79
		Semra ...	Ditto ..	105
		Naroia ...	Ditto ...	66
		Bijaipur ...	Ditto ...	69
		Birohi ...	Lower Primary ...	34
		Babura ...	Ditto ...	35
		Nandani ...	Ditto ...	32
		Gaura ...	Ditto ...	37
		Akorhi ..	Ditto	37
		Kusaha ...	Ditto ...	32
		Naraina ...	Ditto .	29
		Bhateora ..	Lower Primary, aided.	31
				27
		Korat ...	Ditto ...	31
		Unchadih ...	Ditto ...	36
		Dharahra ...	Ditto ...	
	Pargana Kantit, tappa Kon.	Tilthi ...	Upper Primary ...	94
		Mawaia ...	Ditto ...	54
		Chil ...	Ditto ...	34
	Pargana Kaswan, taluqa Majhwa.	Kachhwa ...	Middle Vernacular,	
		Jamua ...	Lower Primary ...	198
		Bandhawa ...	Ditto ...	38
		Tulapur ...	Ditto ...	43
		Baraini ...	Ditto ...	36
		Jamuhari ...	Ditto ...	36
		Mahamalpur ...	Ditto ...	36
		Mathia .	Lower Primay, aided.	35
				26
		Gotawa ...	Ditto ..	40
		Majhwa ...	Ditto ...	28
		Kachhwa, Girls' school.	Ditto ...	28

List of Schools, 1908—(continued).

Tahsil.	Pargana.	Locality.	Class of school.	Average attendance.
Chunar.	Bhagwat ...	Rampur ...	Lower Primary ...	63
		Patita ...	Ditto ...	35
		Kolawa ...	Ditto ...	34
	Qariat Sikhar ...	Sikhar ...	Upper Primary...	103
		Mirhia ...	Ditto ...	58
		Adalpura ...	Ditto ...	90
		Khaira ...	Ditto ...	128
		Domanpur ...	Lower Primary...	35
		Ramgarh ...	Ditto ...	30
		Mangarha ...	Ditto ...	36
		Pachharauhan ..	Ditto ...	41
		Hasra ...	Lower Primary aided.	14
		Bhualpur ...	Ditto ..	23
		Pulka, Girls' school.	Ditto ..	10
	Ahraura ...	Ahraura, Town school.	Middle Vernacular,	87
		Sukrit ...	Lower Primary ..	15
		Madhopur ...	Ditto ...	18
		Baradih ..	Ditto ...	30
		Ahraura, Church Mission school.	Lower Primary aided.	77
	Pargana Kantit, taluqa Saktesgarh.	Saktesgarh ...	Lower Primary,...	11
		Rajgarh ..	Lower Primary Courts of Wards Kantit, estate.	20
		Susa ...	Ditto ...	7
	Haveli Chunar ...	Chunar, Diocesan school for boys and girls.	Upper and Lower Primary.	74
		Chunar, Church Mission school.	Anglo-Vernacular,	102
		Chunar, Town school.	Middle Vernacular.	108
		Niamatpur ...	Upper Primary ..	53
		Chunar, branch...	Lower Primary...	103
		Bela ...	Ditto ...	30
		Gangpur ...	Ditto ...	31
		Raipuria ...	Ditto ...	27
	Bhuili ..	Adalhat ...	Upper Primary...	89
		Bhuili ...	Ditto ...	86
		Mirzapur khurd	Lower Primary ..	45
		Gurahapur ...	Ditto ...	36

List of Schools, 1908—(continued).

Tahsil.	Pargana.	Locality.	Class of school.	Average attendance.
Chunar—(concluded).	Bhuili—(concld.).	Pilkhir ...	Lower Primary .	34
		Ori ...	Ditto ...	30
		Jamalpur ...	Ditto ...	39
		Dohari ...	Ditto ...	21
		Dohi ...	Lower Primary, aided.	37
		Shiria ...	Ditto ...	33
Robertsganj.	Barhar ...	Robertsganj ...	Middle Vernacular,	99
		Shahganj ...	Upper Primary...	128
		Ghorawal ...	Lower Primary, aided.	32
		Murtia ...	Ditto ...	16
		Kakrahi ...	Ditto ...	17
		Parsana ...	Ditto ...	22
		Dulturi ...	Ditto ...	24
		Chirri ...	Ditto ...	17
		Bahuara ...	Ditto ..	19
		Kaithi Kosi ...	D tto ...	17
		Shiva Duar ...	Ditto ...	38
		Dibair ...	Ditto ...	19
	Bijaigarh ...	Siddhi ...	Lower Primary ...	17
		Bhikampur ...	Ditto ...	15
		Rorua ...	Ditto ...	20
		Ramgarh ...	Lower Primary, aided.	39
		Tarawan ...	Ditto ...	45
		Nai Bazar ...	Ditto ...	22
		Baldiha ...	Ditto ...	13
		Waini ...	Ditto ...	33
		Chhatra ...	Ditto ...	21
		Bijaipura ..	Ditto ...	18
		Nandiha ...	Ditto ...	22
		Pataundha ...	Lower Primary, Courts of Wards, Bijaigarh estate.	10
		Deoria ..	Ditto ...	12
		Pankap ...	Ditto ...	13
		Pandri ...	Ditto ...	18
		Kariaon ...	Ditto ...	18
		Tilari ...	Ditto ...	17
		Ramgarh ...	Ditto ...	38
		Manchi ...	Ditto ...	10
		Chaura ...	Ditto ...	3
		Pindari ...	Ditto ...	11
		Kirhulia ...	Ditto ...	14
		Baldiha ...	Ditto ...	20
		Rampur ...	Ditto ...	10
		Raghunathpur ...	Lower Primary, Narayangir estate.	14
		Chirwi ..	Ditto ...	28

List of Schools, 1908—(continued).

Tahsil.	Pargana.	Locality.	Class of school.	Average attendance.
Robertsganj—(concluded).	Agori ...	Kon ...	Lower Primary...	47
		Kota ...	Ditto ...	17
		Belkap ...	Ditto ...	34
		Sindhuria ...	Ditto ...	34
		Newari ...	Ditto ..	21
		Koldamori ...	Ditto ..	17
		Chhatarwan ..	Ditto ...	16
		Masini ...	Ditto ...	16
		Parsawan Babu ..	Ditto ..	19
		Ramgarh ...	Ditto ...	45
		Devatan ...	Lower Primary, aided.	25
		Parsoi ..	Ditto ...	14
		Kewal ...	Ditto ...	17
		Chanehi ...	Ditto ...	18
		Chopan ..	Ditto ...	12
		Kargara ...	Ditto ...	24
		Bhagisoti ...	Ditto ...	21
		Bharahri ...	Ditto ...	19
		Kanach ...	Ditto ...	12
		Jungel ...	Ditto ...	19
		Budar ...	Ditto ...	24
		Kharatia ...	Ditto ...	15
	Singrauli with Dudhi.	Khairwa ...	Lower Primary...	28
		Gaharwargaon ..	Ditto ...	16
		Mobri kalan ...	Ditto	22
		Kothgaon ...	Lower Primary, aided.	14
		Jhelu ...	Ditto ...	12
		Bijpur ..	Ditto ...	13
		Khamaria ...	Ditto ...	17
		Adhaura ...	Ditto ...	15
		Kalka ...	Ditto ...	28
		Bidar ...	Upper Primary Dudhi Government estate.	20
		Mahuli ...	Ditto ...	18
		Bagharo ...	Ditto ...	16
		Mewarpur ...	Lower Primary, Dudhi Government estate.	11
		Nandiha ...	Ditto ...	13
		Terha ...	Ditto ...	16
		Harnakachar ...	Ditto ..	12
		Mauli Semar ...	Ditto ...	5
		Sango band ...	Ditto ...	13
		Sundari ...	Ditto ...	17
		Bamhui ...	Ditto ...	12
		Ekdari ...	Ditto ...	18
		Arjhat ...	Ditto ...	18
		Nadhra ...	Ditto ...	8
		Kirwil ...	Ditto ..	12
		Kataundhi ...	Ditto ...	11

List of Schools, 1908—(concluded).

Tahsil.	Pargana.	Locality.	Class of school.	Average attendance.
Family Domains.	Pargana Bhadohi, tahsil Korh.	Gyanpur ...	Anglo-Vernacular, Sanskrit.	147
		Bhadohi ...	Middle Vernacular	57
		Gopiganj ...	Ditto ...	37
		Khamaria ...	Upper Primary ..	142
		Maharajganj ...	Ditto ..	116
		Suriawan ...	Ditto ...	103
		Rotaha ...	Ditto ...	96
		Bhadohi, branch ...	Lower Primary ...	77
		Gopiganj, branch	Ditto ...	121
		Pali ...	Ditto ...	40
		Matethu ...	Ditto ...	36
		Ghussea ..	Ditto ...	59
		Gird Bargaon ...	Ditto ...	65
		Mondh ...	Ditto ...	16
		Nai Bazar ...	Ditto ...	37
		Pura Qanungo ...	Ditto ...	67
		Bichhia ...	Ditto ...	14
		Katra ...	Ditto ...	27
		Baragaon ...	Ditto ...	25
		Gopiganj, Girls' school	Ditto ...	20
		Rotaha ...	Ditto ..	17
		Anandih ...	Lower Primary, aided.	22
		Abhauli ..	Ditto ...	42
		Bankat .	Ditto ...	36
		Jagannathpur ...	Ditto ...	43
		Mahoyada .	Ditto ...	Newly opened
		Baran ...	Ditto ..	Newly opened
		Ugapur ..	Ditto ...	24
		Itahra ...	Ditto ...	28
	Pargana Kera-Mangraur, tahsil Chakia.	Chakia ...	Upper Primary ..	48
		Sikandarpur ...	Lower Primary...	34
		Sahabganj .	Ditto ...	24
		Ilia ...	Lower Primary, aided	12
		Amaon ...	Ditto ...	11
		Bhikhampur ...	Ditto ...	27
		Kanera ...	Ditto ...	18

ROADS, 1908.

	Miles	fur.
A.—PROVINCIAL.		
(i) Grand trunk road, Allahabad, Benares and Karamnasa section	24	0
(ii) Great Deccan road, Mirzapur to Rewah	40	4·66
Total ...	64	4·66
B.—LOCAL.		
I.—First class metalled roads, bridged and drained throughout.		
(i) Mirzapur to Benares (*vide* II-v ii)	9	0
(ii) Mirzapur to Gopiganj (*vide* V-ii and II-vii)	11	2·80
(iii) Mirzapur to Sitakund (*vide* I-v and I-v)	5	2·8
(iv) Mirzapur to cantonment ghat	1	6·8
(v) Sitakund to Ashtbhuja hill	0	3·8
(vi) Gopiganj to Ramghat	2	4·16
(vii) Chunar Railway station approach	1	1
(viii) Narayanpur to Ahraura (*vide* II-iv)	13	1·20
(ix) Mirzapur to Marihan (*vide* II-ii)	17	0
(x) Chunar to Tikaurighat	0	1·30
(xi) Ahraura road railway station approach	0	1·60
(xii) Bindhachal to Ramgayaghat	0	4
(xiii) Bindhachal railway Station approach	0	1·17
(xiv) Bhadohi railway station approach	0	5·33
(xv) Mirzapur to Jaunpur	18	0
Total ...	81	0
II.—Second class roads, unmetalled, partially bridged and drained.		
(i) Chunar to Benares	7	0
(ii) Marahan to Ghorawal and Robertsganj (*vide* V-xi) ...	33	0
(iii) Chhota Mirzapur to Tidwa	4	0
(iv) Ahraura to Robertsganj and Chopan (*vide* V-xvi and xxi) ...	38	0
(v) Chunar to Ahraura	14	0
(vi) Korh to Durgaganj	15	0
(vii) Gopiganj to Bhadohi	12	0
(viii) Mirzapur to Benares	9	0
(ix) Narayanpur to Dara Nagarghat	2	0
(x) Chunar to Chhota Mirzapur	14	0
Total ...	148	0
III.—Fourth class roads, banked but not surfaced, partially bridged and drained.		
(i) Mirzapur to Chunar (*vide* II-x)	20	0
(ii) Chunar to Katka	18	0
(iii) Korh to Chetganj	8	0
(iv) Itwan to Sirsi	21	0
Total ...	67	0

ROADS, 1908—(*concluded*).

IV.—Fifth class roads, cleared, partially bridged and drained.	Miles	fur.
(i) Gaipura to Bijaipur	2	0
(ii) Sultanpur to Mirzamurad...	2	0
(iii) Chakiya to Ramnagar in Benares	18	0
(iv) Kathari to Grand trunk road	1	2
(v) Marhan to Hindubari	31	0
Total ...	54	2

V.—Sixth class roads, cleared only.	Miles	fur.
(i) Durgaganj to Kali-ka-bara	24	0
(ii) Gopiganj to Suriawan	12	0
(iii) Cantonment ghat to Atkgurwa	12	0
(iv) Drummondganj to Allahabad frontier	0	6
(v) Sitakund to Khukheri	13	0
(vi) Lalganj to Halia	12	0
(vii) Drummondganj to Halia	10	0
(viii) Ahraura to Chainpur	21	0
(ix) Chunar to Chhatawar	55	0
(x) Chakiya to Baburi	7	0
(xi) Ghorawal to Kota	68	0
(xii) Manhasa to Kota	30	0
(xiii) Dudhi to Manhasa	8	0
(xiv) Kon to Dudhi	22	0
(xv) Newari to the Shahabad border	46	0
(xvi) Chopan to Dudhi (*vide* I-viii and II-iv)	31	0
(xvii) Rani Tal to Sarguja border	30	0
(xviii) Maddupur to Kon (*vide* V-xiv)	53	0
(xix) Gaharwargaon to Rehta	7	0
(xx) Cantonment ghat to Tilthi	4	0
(xxi) Chopan to Gaharwargaon (*vide* I-viii and II-iv)	49	0
(xxii) Lalganj to Kalwari (*vide* II-ii)	27	0
(xxiii) Robertsganj to eastern boundary	30	0
(xxiv) Khamaria Bazar to Madho Singh	1	4
(xxv) Jangiganj to Tulsi Dhan	18	0
(xxvi) Miscellaneous city boundary roads	20	0
Total ...	601	2
GRAND TOTAL ...	1,016	0

FERRIES, 1908.

River.	Ferry.	Pargana.	Tahsil	Management.	Income.
					Rs.
Ganges.	Mahadeva ...	Bhadohi ...	Korh ...	Leased by the Maharaja of Benares.	15
	Parsani ...	Do. ...	Do. ...	Do. .	55
	Bhurra ...	Do. ...	Do. ...	Private ...	...
	Chhachhua ...	Do. ...	Do. ...	Leased by the Maharaja of Benares.	2
	Do. ...	Do. ...	Do. ...	Private ...	...
	Dig ...	Do. ...	Do. ...	Leased by the Maharaja of Benares.	No income.
	Naraipur and Baripur.	Do. ...	Do. ...	Private ...	...
	Berwan, Puharpur.	Do. ...	Do ...	Do. ...	...
	Nagardah ...	Do. ...	Do. ...	Do. ...	...
	Birahimpur ...	Do. ...	Do. ...	Leased by the Maharaja of Benares.	415
	Gulauri ...	Do. ...	Do. ...	Do. ...	205
	Rampur Amlaur,	Do. ...	Do.	Do. ...	...
	Dewan Kaulapur	Do. ...	Do. ...	Private ...	...
	Bindhachal ...	T. Chhiyanve,	Mirzapur	District Board,	6,000
	Narghat ...	T. Chaurasi,	Do. ...	Do. ...	9,500
	Sundarghat ...				
	Company ghat	Do. ...	Do. ...	Do. ...	250
	Newaria ...	Do. ...	Do. ...	Do. ...	2,390
	Bhatauli ...	Do.	Do. ..	Do. ...	2,650
	Kathnehi ...	Do. ...	Do. ...	Do. .	560
	Sindhaura ...	Haveli ...	Chunar ...	Do. ...	1,530
	Turubalganj ...	Do. ...	Do. ...	Do. ...	1,225
	Chunar City Balwa ghat.	Do. ...	Do. ...	Do. ...	1,830
	Jurganadi ...	Do. ...	Do ...	Do. ...	150
	Sultanpur ...	Do. ...	Do ...	Private ...	...
	Chhota Mirzapur.	Bhuili ...	Do. ...	District Board,	1,600
Son.	Silpi and Kota Newari.	Agori ...	Robertsganj..	Private ...	..
	Agori ...	Do. ...	Do. ...	Do. ..	...
	Patwadh Chopan.	Do. ...	Do. ...	District Board,	660
	Chopan ...	Do. ...	Do. ...	Private ...	...
	Kanch ...	Do. ...	Do. ...	Do. ...	...
	Kota Kajrahat,	Do. ...	Do. ...	District Board,	...
	Hardi ...	Do. ..	Do. ...	Private ...	...
	Argarh ::	Bijaigarh ...	Do. ...	Do ...	...
Rihand.	Obra ...	Agori ...	Do. ...	Do. ...	...
	Sindhuria ...	Do. ...	Do. ...	Do. ...	...

FERRIES, 1908 --(*concluded*).

River.	Ferry.	Pargana.	Tahsil.	Management.	Income.
					Rs.
Chandra-prabha.	Sikandarpur ..	Kera Mangraur	Chakia ...	Privately managed by the Maharaja.	No income
Karamnasa.	Mangraur ...	Ditto ...	Do. ...	Ditto ...	4
	Karadih ...	Ditto ...	Do. ...	Ditto ...	2
	Shahganj ...	Ditto ...	Do. ...	Ditto ...	2
	Ikauna ...	Ditto ...	Do. ...	Ditto ..	No income.
	Bhursar ...	Ditto ..	Do. ...	Ditto ..	Do.
	Naugarh ...	Ditto ...	Do. ..	Ditto ..	Do.

POST-OFFICES, 1908.

Tahsil.	Pargana.	Locality.	Class.
Mirzapur.	Pargana Kantit, tappa Upraudh.	Drummondganj ...	Branch office.
		Halia ...	Do.
		Lalganj ...	Do.
	Pargana Kantit, tappa Chaurasi.	Mirzapur ...	Head-office, combined
		Mirzapur city ...	Sub-office, combined.
		Mirzapur Railway station.	Sub-office.
		Ganeshganj ...	Do.
		Mariahan ...	Branch office.
		Pahari ...	Do.
	Pargana Kantit, tappa Chhiyanve.	Bijaipur ...	Sub-office.
		Bindhachal ...	Do.
	Pargana Kantit, tappa Kon.	Barah ...	Branch office.
	Pargana Kaswar, *taluqa* Majhwa.	Kachhwa ...	Sub-office.
Chunar.	Qariat Sikhar ..	Sikhar ...	Branch office.
	Ahraura	Ahraura ...	Sub-office, combined.
	Pargana Kantit, *taluqa* Saktesgarh.	Rajgarh ...	Branch office.
	Haveli Chunar ...	Chunar ...	Sub-office, combined.
		Mirzapur khurd ...	Branch office.
	Bhuili ...	Bhuili ...	Do.
Robertsganj.	Barhar ..	Robertsganj ...	Sub-office.
		Ghorawal ...	Branch office.
		Shahganj ...	Do.
	Bijaigarh ...	Pannuganj ...	Do.
		Nai Bazar ...	Do.
	Agori ..	Chopan ...	Do.
		Kon ...	Do.
	Singrauli with Dudhi	Khairwa ...	Sub-office.
		Dudhi ...	Branch office.
		Mauli Semar ...	Do.
Korh.	Bhadohi ...	Bhadohi ...	Sub-office.
		Aurai ...	Do.
		Gopiganj ...	Do.
		Korh ...	Do.
		Ujh ...	Do.
		Suriawan ...	Do.
		Khamaria ...	Branch office.
		Maharajganj ..	Do.
		Nai Bazar ...	Do.
		Pali ...	Do.
Chakia.	Kera Mangraur ...	Chakia ...	Sub-office.

MARKETS, 1908.

Tahsil	Pargana.	Village.	Market days.
Mirzapur.	Pargana Kantit, tappa Upraudh.	Baraundha ...	Sunday and Wednesday.
		Halia ...	Ditto.
		Dubar kalan ...	Monday and Thursday.
		Dubar khurd ...	Ditto.
		Kothi ...	Tuesday and Friday.
		Pipra ...	Ditto.
		! ubura kalan ...	Ditto.
		Drummondganj ...	Wednesday and Saturday.
	Pargana Kantit, tappa Chhaurasi.	Narghat ...	Daily.
		McChleryganj ...	Do.
		Wellesleyganj ...	Do.
		Durgaganj ...	Do.
	Pargana Kankit, tappa Chhiyanve.	Naroia ...	Sunday and Thursday.
		Bijaipur ...	Ditto.
		Khamaria ...	Tuesday and Friday.
		Kasrab ...	Ditto.
		Bhurupur ..	Tuesday and Saturday.
		Baharia ...	Ditto.
Chunar.	Qariat Sikhar ...	Adalpura ...	Daily.
		Khaira ...	Sunday and Wednesday.
		Sikhar ...	Monday and Thursday.
	Pargana Kantit, *taluqa* Saktesgarh.	Rajgarh ...	Daily.
		Daranagar ...	Do.
	Haveli Chunar ..	Sadhupur ...	Do.
	Bhuili ...	Adalhat ...	Do
		Bhuili ...	Do.
		Sherwa ...	Do
		Jamalpur ...	Do.
Robertsganj.	Barhar ...	Robertsganj ...	Monday and Friday.
		Shahganj ...	Sunday and Thursday.
		Ghorawal ...	Munday and Wednesday.
	Bijaigarh ...	Ramgarh ...	Ditto.
		Nai Bazar (Bachaunda),	Tuesday and Saturday.
		Ouni ...	Monday and Thursday.
	Agori ...	Kon ...	Sunday.
	Singrauli ...	Gaharwargaon ...	Monday and Thursday.

MARKETS, 1908—*(concluded).*

Tahsil.	Pargana.	Village.	Market days.
Family Domains.	Pargana Bhadohi, tahsil Korh.	Gopiganj ...	Sunday and Wednesday.
		Ghosea ...	Tuesday and Friday.
		Bazar Madho Singh ..	Wednesday and Saturday.
		Maharajganj ...	Tuesday and Friday
		Chauri Dhanu ...	Sunday and Wednesday.
		Korh ...	Tuesday and Saturday.
		Ugapur ...	No fixed day.
		Piropur ...	Do.
		Sahsaipur ...	Do.
		Kathari ..	Do.
		Digh ...	Do
		Khamaria ..	Monday and Thursday.
		Jangiganj ...	Do.
		Koerauna ...	Do.
		Durgaganj ...	Tuesday and Saturday.
		Suriawan ...	Tuesday and Wednesday.
		Akarhwa ..	Wednesday and Saturday.
		Abhia ...	Monday and Friday.
		Dandopur ...	No fixed day.
		Chattri ka pura ...	Tuesday and Saturday.
		Rajpura Ahmadganj ..	Sunday and Wednesday.
		Nai Bazar ...	Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday.
		Katra Rusukhiat khan	Monday, Thursday and Friday.
		Pura Nur-us-Salam ...	Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday.
		Dasratpur ...	Ditto.
	Pargana Kera Mangraur, tahsil Chakia.	Chakia ...	Daily.
		Ilia ...	Do.
		Shahganj ...	No fixed day.
		Sikandarpur ...	Do.
		Shikarganj ...	Do.
		Naugarh ...	Do.

FAIRS, 1908.

Tahsil	Pargana.	Locality.	Name of fair.	Date.	Approximate average attendance.
Mirzapur.	Pargana Kantit, tappa Uprandh.	Bailahi	Mahadeoji ..	Pus Badi 13th .	4,000
		Garhbarha Raja	Bhagwati ..	Every Monday in Aghan.	15,000
		Kotar ...	Mahadeoji ...	Pus Badi 13th ...	25,000
	Pargana Kantit, tappa Chaurasi.	Mirzapur ...	Bharath Milap .	Kuar Sudi 11th...	15,000
		Do. ...	Do. .	Kartik Badi 5th...	15 000
		Do. ...	Rajgaddi ...	Do. Sudi 5th...	1,000
		Do. ..	Khicherwar ...	In Magh ...	17,000
		Do. Bariaghat .	Holi ..	Chait Badi 1st ..	10,000
		Do. Kotwali ...	Horha Gade i ...	Do. ...	200
		Do. Kasarhatta	Durga Debi ..	Bhadon ...	300
		Do. Imambara...	Muharram ...	Muharram 9th ..	12,000
		Do. do. ...	Ghazi Miyan ..	Jeth ...	3,000
		Do. Bhai n s i a Tola.	Nag Panchami ..	Sawan Sudi 11th	1,000
		Do. Mahantji ka Shivala.	Kajli ...	Bhadon Badi ...	13,000
		Do. ...	Do. ...	Sawan Badi 3rd ...	5,000
		Do. Takia Devishah.	Madan Shahi ...	Jamad-i-a w w a l 17th.	300
		Tarkapur ...	Jhulma Mahadeo	Sawan Sudi 11th	1,000
		Do. ...	Nagpanchami	Do. ...	1,000
		Do. ...	Kajli ..	Bhadon Badi 3rd	13,000
		Do. ...	Sheoratra, Tarkerwar Mahadeo.	Phagun Badi 3rd	4,000
		Bharuhna ...	Baldeoji ...	Bhadon Sudi 11th	1,000
		Loandi ...	Mahabirji ...	Every Tuesday and Saturday.	1,000
		Do. ...	Rashni Mahabir	Kartik Sudi 5th	12,000
		Sabari .	Dasmi ...	Kuar Sudi 18th ...	2,000
		Dumrauli ...	Do. ...	Do. ...	1,500
		Newaria ...	Do. ...	Do. .	400
		Gajanand ...	Gajanand Mahadeo	Phagun Badi 3rd	500
		Chandnipur ...	Mahadeo ...	Do. ...	600
		Basahi ...	Bhawanbij ...	Bhadon Sudi 12th	4,000
		Chandika ...	Sankrant ...	Magh 1st ...	4,000
		Bilahra ...	Baramh ...	Every Monday ...	60
		Rajanhan ...	Muharram ..	Muharram 9th and 10th.	70
		Gopalpur ..	Do. ...	Do. ...	50
		Do. ...	Dasahra ...	Badi and 11th.	1,000
		Pandi patti ..	Mahabirji ...	Sudi 3rd	200
		Baraundha	Lachmi Narayan	adi 11th	5,000
	Pargana Kantit, tappa Chhiyanve.	Bindhachal ..	Nauratra ..	Chait Sudi 9th and Kuar Sudi 9th.	25,000
		Do. .	Muharram ...	Muharram 9th, 10th.	600
		Akorhi ...	Do. ...	Do. ...	1,000

FAIRS, 1908—*(continued)*.

Tahsil.	Pargana.	Locality.	Name of fair.	Date.	Approximate average attendance.
Mirzapur—*(concluded)*.	Pargana Kankit, tappa Chhiyanve.	Sheopur ...	Mahadeoji ..	Phagun Badi 13th	800
		Do. ...	Ramgaya ...	Kuar Badi 13th ..	5,000
		Gopalpur ...	Ashtbhuja ...	Chait Sudi 9th ...	6,000
		Do. ..	Do. ...	Kuar Sudi 9th ..	6,000
		Do. ..	Do. ...	Last Tuesday of Sawan.	10,000
		Jokhu Chak ...	Sankrant ...	Magh Badi 15th...	1,000
		Hindura Chaube	Mahadeoji ..	Pus Badi 13th ...	2,000
		Do. ...	Do. ..	Phagun Badi 13th	2,000
		Khaira .	Dasmi ..	Kuar Badi 10th	1,000
		Bijaipur ...	Dasiji ..	Asarh Badi 8th...	6,000
		Do. ..	Muharram ...	Muharram 9th, 10th.	4,000
	Pargana Kantit, tappa Kon	Kolhua Bhoj ...	Uttar Bahni ..	Magh Sudi 7th ...	2,000
		Madanpatti or Garhgarhi.	Piala ...	First Monday of Aghan.	10,000
		Bhogaon	Kartik Puranmashi.	Kartik 15th ..	5,000
		Do. ...	Sankrant ...	Magh .	5,000
		Madara ...	Litti Bhanta ...	Aghan Sudi 14th	1,000
	Pargana Kaswar, *taluqa* Majhwa.	Mahangipur, alias Chetganj.	Dasmi ...	Kuar Sudi 10th .	100
		Tilthi ...	Do. ..	Do. .	400
		Chil ..	Do. .	Do. ..	500
		Jamua ...	Do.	Do.	200
		Kachhwa ..	Do. ...	Do. ...	1,000
		Do. ...	Rath Jatra ...	Asarh Sudi 2nd...	1,000
		Do. ...	Muharram	Muharram 9th, 10th.	4,000
		Jamua ...	Do. ...	Do. ...	500
		Ahi ...	Bourai ...	Bhadon Badi 14th	1,000
		Biraini ...	Kartik Puranmashi.	Kartik full moon	1,000
		Do. .	Makar Sankrant ..	Magh ..	1,000
Chunar.	Bhagwat ..	Jungle Mahal...	Mela Barhi ..	Kartik ..	300
	Qariat Sikhar	Khaira ..	Dasmi ...	Kuar Sudi 10th...	500
		Sikhar ..	Do. ..	Do. ...	250
		Adalpura ..	Do. ..	Do. .	300
		Ramgarh ...	Sheoratri ..	Phagun Badi 14th	1,200
	Ahraura ...	Durga kund	Janam Ashtmi ...	Bhadon ...	3,000
		Ahraura ..	Dasmi	Kuar Sudi 10th ...	4,000
		Belkhara ...	Mela Malikji ..	Sawan ...	500
		Ahraura ..	Ghazi Mian ...	Jeth ...	300
	Pargana Kantit, *taluqa* Saktesgarh.	Baragaon ...	Durgakund and Nauratra	Every Tuesday in Sawan.	1,500
		Rajgarh ...	Dhanusyug ..	Kuar Sudi 5th ..	400

FAIRS, 1908—*(continued)*.

Tahsil.	Pargana.	Locality.	Name of fair.	Date.	Approximate average attendance.
Chunar.—*(concluded)*.	Haveli Chunar.	Chunar ...	Dasmi ...	Kuar Sudi 10th...	2,000
		Do. Acharajji...	Ankut ...	Aghan Sudi 1st...	4,000
		Do. Dargah ...	Dargah Shah Qasim Sulaiman.	Every Thursday in Chait.	4,000
		Dichhitpur ..	Sheoshankri ...	Chait Sudi 9th ...	3,000
	Bhuili ...	Pasahi ..	Sheoratri ...	Phagun Badi 14th.	400
Robertsganj.	Barhar ...	Barahda ...	Gauri Shankar ...	Phagun Badi 13th	4,000
		Satdwari ...	Sheoratri ...	Phagun Badi 14th	250
	Bijaigarh ...	Patna ..	Do. ...	Do. ...	500
		Majhdand ...	Do. ...	Do. ...	200
		Between Pindari and Ranidih.	Do. ...	Do. ...	1,000
	Agori ...	Gothani ..	Sheoratri ...	Do. ...	1,000
		Karari ...	Naumi ..	Chait Sudi 9th ...	2,500
	Singrauli ...	Kota ...	Jwala Mukhi ...	Do. ..	3,000
		Nauka ..	Sheoratri ...	Phagun Badi 13th	1,000
Family Domains.	Pargana Bhadohi, tahsil Korh.	Kum ...	Udar Nath Mahadeo	Phagun Badi 13th	1,000
		Itwan ...	Bathing fair ...	Kartik Puranmashi, Magh Shankrant and Amawas.	3,000
		Khamaria ...	Muharram ..	Muharram 9th and 10th.	2,000
		Do. ...	Tij ...	Bhadon Sudi Tij...	2,000
		Bazar Madho Singh.	Muharram	Muharram 9th and 10th.	2,000
		Do. ...	Kajli ...	Bhadon Badi 3rd	2,000
		Do. ...	Litti Bhanta ...	Aghan Sudi, first Monday.	2 000
		Do. ...	Dasmi ...	Kuar Sudi 10th .	10,000
		Do. ...	Bharat Milap ..	Third day after the Dasahra.	10,000
		Ghussea ...	Muharram ...	Muharram 9th and 10th.	2,000
		Piropur ...	Do ...	Do. ...	500
		Korh ...	Do. ..	Do. ..	1,000
		Do. ..	Dashmi ...	Kuar Sudi 10th..	4,000
		Do ...	Hari-Har Nath ...	Phagun Badi 13th	500
		Lalanagar ..	Muharram ...	Muharram 9th and 10th.	200
		Natwa ...	Mahabirji ...	Every Tuesday in Sawan.	500

FAIRS, 1908—*(concluded)*.

Tahsil.	Pargana.	Locality.	Name of fair.	Date.	Approximate average attendance.
Family Domains—*(concluded)*.	Pargana Bhadohi, tahsil Korh—*(concluded)*.	Chakwa ...	Mahabirji ...	Every Tuesday in Sawan	505, rising to 2,000 on last day.
		Rampur ..	Bathing fair ...	Kartik Puranmashi, Magh Shankrant and Amawas.	4,000
		Nagmalpur ...	Dasmi ...	Kuar Sudi 10th ..	500
		Matethu ...	Do. ...	Do. ...	500
		Sherpur ...	Barambh ...	Every Monday ...	200
		Rajpur ..	Dasmi ...	Kuar Sudi 10th ..	2,000
		Marjadpatti ...	Ghazi Mian ..	First Sunday in Jeth.	3,000
		Do ..	Shawan Dwadashi	Bhadon Sudi 12th	10,000
		Raya ...	Dasmi ...	Kuar Sudi 10th...	500
		Naraipur ..	Sitamashi ...	Asarh Sudi 9th ...	4,000
		Semrarh .	Mahadeoji ..	Sawan and Phagun Badi 13th.	4,000 to 5,000
		Mondh ...	Dhanushyug ...	Aghan Sudi 5th ..	3,000
		Bhadohi ...	Ram Lila ...	Kuar Sudi 10th...	2,000
		Do. ...	Muharram .	Muharram 9th and 10th.	3,000
		Gopiganj ..	Bharat Milap ..	Kuar Sudi 12th...	2,000
		Do ...	Litti Bhanta ...	Aghan, first Monday	200
		Do. ...	Bawan Dwadashi	Bhadon Sudi 10th	500
		Natwa ...	Shahid Mard ...	Sawan ...	300
		Badgaon	Dasmi ...	Kuar Sudi 10th...	1,000
		Barwa ...	Muharram ..	Muharram 9th and 10th.	500
	Pargana Kera Mangraur, tahsil Chakia.	Dubepur ..	Sheoratri ...	Phagun Badi 13th	2,000
		Kalani ...	Do. ...	Do. .	2,000
		Jungle Latif Shah.	Latif Shah ...	Bhadon Sudi 5th	4,000

GAZETTEER OF MIRZAPUR.

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